



# Population Bulletin

Population Research Centre - SESS

Volume II, Issue I

Publication Date: March, 2022

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## News from the Office of PRC

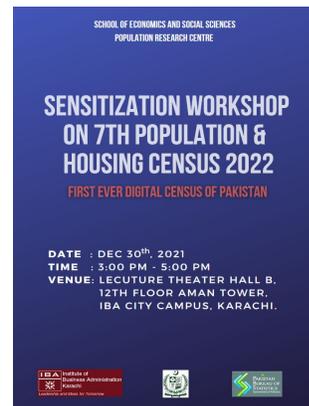
The PRC is hosting a lecture series to provide insights on population and demographic issues. Scholars from diverse areas are invited to share their knowledge and latest research.

As part of the distinguished lecture series, In December 2021, Dr. Saima Bashir conducted a webinar on Pakistan's Stalled Fertility.



Her analysis provided insight into gender and couple dynamics of reproductive behavior. She discussed various socio economic dimensions of the issue; despite marked improvement in women education in the last two decades, the stalled fertility level in Pakistan suggests that gender changes at the societal level are slow to translate into interpersonal relationships.

On December 30th 2021 PRC hosted a Sensitization Workshop on the 7th Population and Housing Census; the first ever digital census of Pakistan conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.



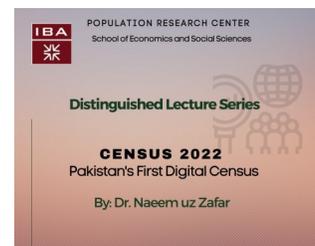
Sensitization workshops are part of an PBS' efforts to bring awareness about the census process among the masses and to avoid the trust deficit by engaging academia/universities, researchers, demographers, data users, NGOs and other stakeholders.

In another webinar, Dr. Nisha Malhotra - an interdisciplinary social scientist discussed her working paper on domestic violence against women in Pakistan.



The discussion had strong policy implications; suggesting that it will take more than an improvement in women's employment options to address the problem.

PRC also organized a physical seminar in February

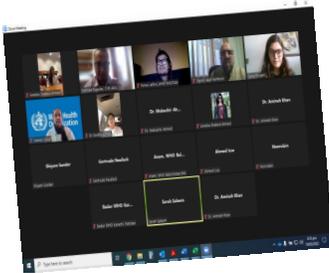


2022 whereby chief statistician Dr. Naeem uz Zafar gave a detailed presentation on the pilot project conducted for the upcoming digital Census 2022; The issues incurred and the solutions adopted.



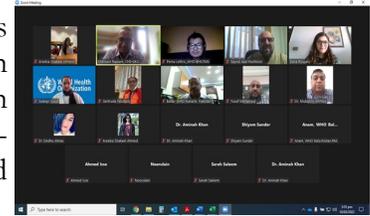
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Four members of the PRC Team, Dr, Khadija Bari, Dr. Lubna Naz, Mr. Shahid Waheed and Ms. Neelma Faraz attended a four-week online course “Quantitative Research Methods Course in Sexual & Reproductive Health “ aimed at Research Capacity strengthening in Sexual Health and Reproductive Health (SHRH).



The course was offered by the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan being the regional hub for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and part of Human Reproduction Alliance based in World Health Organization (WHO) Geneva HQ for participants interested in learning quantitative research methods in SRHR.

The course was offered under two broad segments  
1) Introduction to SRHR Quantitative Research Methodology and, 2) Applying quantitative research methods to SRHR priority themes with the purpose to help participants to develop a research proposal in priority areas of sexual and reproductive health in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).



## Research Facilitation



At the Population Research Center, we are dedicated to helping students with their research.

The Centre aims to facilitate students in various areas of their population related research work. By providing resources and support, the Centre strives to help students throughout the process of conducting research. Whether it's finding relevant sources of data or writing a paper, the Centre is dedicated to empower students to succeed in their academic pursuits.

PRC Team will also be coordinating with Faculty Members and PhD scholars to hold series of workshops and seminars aimed at introducing students to the various population related datasets such as PSLM, HIES, LFS and DHS.

## Overview—Educational Attainment in Pakistan

Pakistan is facing a significant problem in ensuring that all children, particularly the most disadvantaged, attend school and learn. While enrollments and retention rates are increasing, progress has been slow when measured against global performance. For example, South Korea has an educational attainment rate of almost 100 percent. The rate in India and Bangladesh also exceeds that of Pakistan. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) estimated in 2016 that around 25 percent of the Pakistani youth is illiterate with 8.2 percent unemployed with no vocational and technical skills.

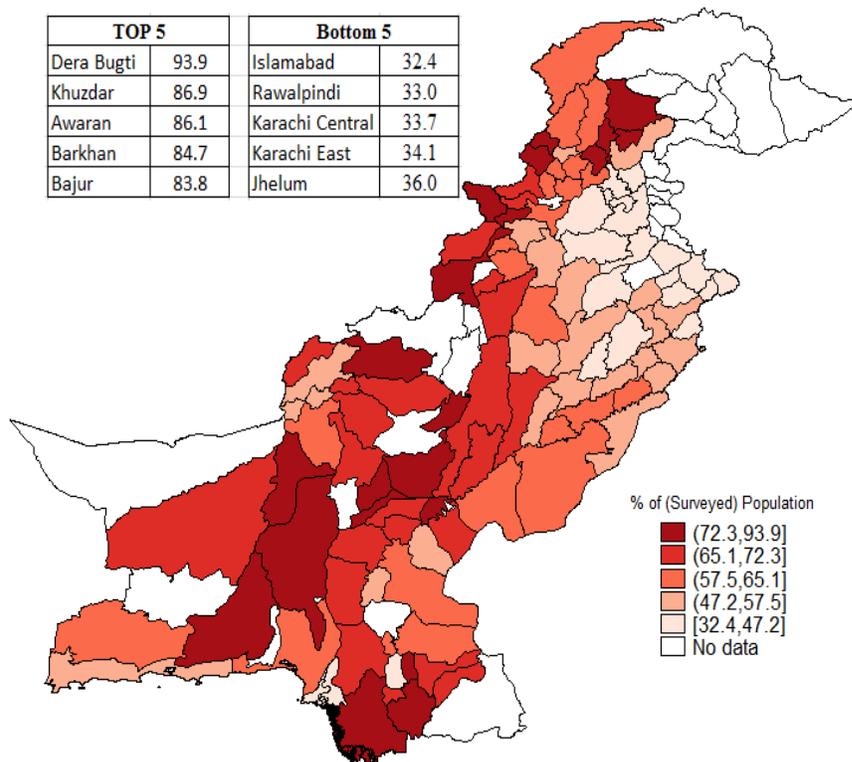
Awaran, Derabugti, and Khuzdar are among the regions with the lowest average for years of schooling and the highest illiteracy rates.

Four out of five districts with the highest illiteracy rates are located in Balochistan. Other districts with a significantly higher percentage of people with no formal education are Bajur, Shangla and Dir in KPK and Thatta and Tharparkar in Sindh.

There are many factors that contribute to Pakistan's low education attainment rate. One of the main reasons is the lack of access to quality resources, many children living in rural areas do not have access to quality education; schools are poorly equipped and there is a lack of qualified teachers. The high cost of education is another issue that prevents many people from getting an education.

Another reason is that many parents in the poorest strata of the population do not see the value of education for their children. They believe that their children should start working at an early age to support the family.

### No Formal Education

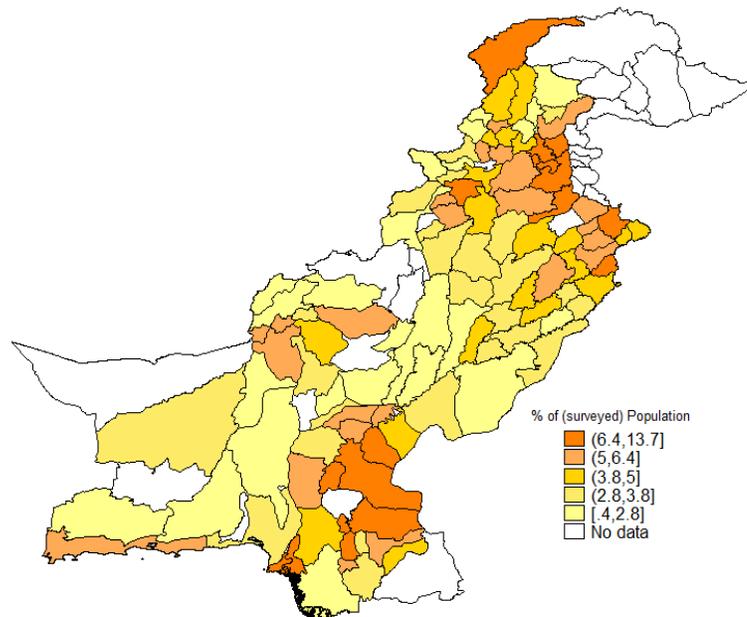


**The Statistics are based on analysis done by Team PRC on the data for Educational Attainment across districts of Population aged 15 and above. The source of the data is PSLM 2019-20.**

### Education Attainment - Higher Secondary Level

The educational system in Pakistan is marked by low primary school enrolment, a lack of secondary education access, a scarcity of both middle and secondary institutions, and insufficient female education access. The lengthy distances between schools and homes are also a reason for so many out-of-school youngsters. Consequently only a mere 6.3% reach Graduation and above.

Among administrative regions, Baluchistan ranks the lowest in education attainment. With 69.5 percent of the population with no formal education.



The Statistics are based on analysis done by Team PRC on the data for Educational Attainment across districts of Population aged 15 and above. The source of the data is PSLM 2019-20.

#### Educational Attainment across Provinces [age 15 and above (%)]

District	No formal Education	Below-primary	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduation & above	Sample Population*
KP	64.4	2.9	5.0	8.1	9.9	4.3	5.5	106,758
Punjab	49.2	3.1	10.2	12.3	13.8	5.1	6.4	268,780
Sindh	56.5	1.3	8.9	6.1	11.6	7.8	7.9	108,741
Balochistan	69.5	1.6	7.4	5.7	7.5	3.6	4.7	49,135
Total	55.6	2.5	8.6	9.6	12.0	5.3	6.3	533,414**

\*The Population from PSLM 2019-20 data that is 15 years and above.

\*\*The total Population Size for PSLM 2019-20 stands at 876,355. Out of which 533,414 individuals are aged 15 and above. The Table states that in KP, 64.4% of the surveyed population has no formal education, and only 4.3% individuals manage to attain education at Higher Secondary level.

UNICEF claims that 60 to 70 percent of kids in Balochistan are unable to go to school. 78 percent of girls and 67 percent of boys between the ages of five and 19 are out of school.

Punjab and Sindh have made some strides in increasing education attainment in recent years. According to the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2019-20, the literacy rate for people aged 15 years and older is 61 percent in Punjab, and 57 percent in Sindh as compared to 48 percent in KPK and 44 percent in Baluchistan.

The access to education in urban areas is better than that of rural areas. A key factor in the urban-rural disparity is the income between rural and urban households. The prominence of cultural and customary influences in rural communities also discourages boys and specially girls from attaining education. Traditional norms, such as early marriage, are still prevalent in communities, limiting students' engagement in schools, particularly for female students. When their parents are away at work, many girls stay at home to look after their siblings.

Research has established that scholastic ability developed prior to primary school completion is an important element in assuring secondary level completion. Policymakers should prioritize primary education. Pakistan has the potential to increase its education attainment rates by investing in early childhood education and improving access to quality secondary and tertiary education. The government should also work to increasing female enrollment in schools and universities. The private sector has a lot to offer in terms of innovation and new technology, which is why partnering with private sector could speed up the process. The linkage can also be used to enhance the reach and quality of post-primary education.

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