

# Social Sector Research Seminar Series

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## FOREWORD

Social sector issues in Pakistan are very complex and multidimensional. We need to be more creative and more innovative to resolve these issues and also for well designed interventions. Academia can provide their assistance in terms of empirical research and generating debate on these issues. In my point of view the biggest achievements of this research seminar series are: (1) this is a step toward strengthening the role of Planning Commission as a think tank, and (2) to generate debate on different social issues in particular and on other economic issues in general. We invite both young and well established/ world-renowned researchers to present their work. Thus the flow of information is not only from academia to Planning Commission but also academia is realizing what type of research government and planning institutions are looking for. Once again I applaud the editors of this series for their efforts and hard work to sustain this knowledge-based activity on regular basis and for maintaining the high quality, which is no doubt a difficult task.

Dr Asma Hyder  
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## **FACTORS AFFECTING CHILDHOOD STUNTING IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN: MULTILEVEL ANALYSIS OF MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY (MICS-2014)**

**DR. FAISAL ABBAS**  
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Pakistan is facing an acute problem of child under-nutrition as about 45 percent of children in Pakistan are stunted. Punjab, the largest province by population and GDP share having stunting prevalence of about 27 percent moderately and 10 percent severely stunted children of less than five years. Therefore, the primary objective of the study is to examine empirically the determinants of stunting at different level of hierarchy. To this end, we employed multilevel random intercept model utilizing MICS, 2014 data which consists of 25065 under five years of children. The unconditional models variance partition coefficient (VPC) and Intra-class correlation (ICC) statistics show high degree of variability at the household, community and district level. The household level variation increases, while at the community and district level it declines when controlled for explanatory variables. The results depict that increasing age of child, increasing birth order of the child, illiterate mothers and fathers, lack of sanitation facilities and being poor are associated significantly with the likelihood of moderate and severe stunting. Surprisingly, there is a gender bias in stunting in Punjab, Pakistan and being girl child is more likely associated with moderate and severe stunting which

depicts the patriarchal nature of the society and a strong prevalence of gender bias in household resource allocations. This outcome of our analysis points towards targeting not only households (focus on girls) but also their families and communities.





## **HEALTHCARE SERVICE UTILIZATION & BURDEN OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AMONG INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION IN LAHORE**

**DR. MURTAZA HAIDER**

**Assistant Chief Health Section MoPDR**

The study conducted at the private health facility of the Union Council (Khan Colony), in Lahore.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

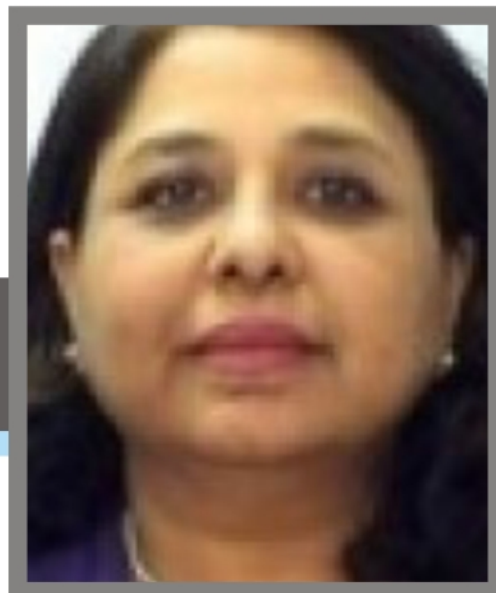
- To determine the prevalence of communicable diseases (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and TB) among IDPs in Lahore.
- To determine association of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and TB with socio-demographic variables.
- To assess the health seeking behavior of internally displaced persons for health care service utilization.
- Cross sectional prospective survey conducted by collection of data through semi structured questionnaire and taking blood samples for detection of anti-bodies for Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, and HIV. The sputum samples collected for detection of tuberculosis (TB). The sampling technique used for this study is non-random convenient sampling.

### **KEY FINDINGS:**

The significant majority (22.6%) of the IDP population is infected with Hepatitis C. The large majority of studied participants comprised of female (73.6%) population. The prevalence of HCV (75%) is more in female population than male. The IDPs mainly originated from Peshawar (42%) and Mardan (34%) divisions of KPK province. The IDPs are prone to bear the burden of communicable disease due to poverty and unfavorable living conditions such as unemployment (79%) and over crowdedness (83%). The IDPs are living in low socio-economic conditions as evidenced from mud houses (15%), low income (89.4%) and high illiteracy (68%) rate. The significant majority of the participants (43.4%) prefer to go to government hospitals for the recent onset of any illness then to hakeem (15.1%) and traditional healer (13.2%) respectively for utilizing healthcare services.

## **REVISITING THE POVERTY DEBATE IN PAKISTAN FORENSICS AND THE WAY FORWARD**

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Lead Economist World Bank



The measurement of poverty is only useful if it is an input into a broader discussion of well-being and inclusive development. The poverty debate in Pakistan has become a distraction from this more challenging and necessary conversation. For this broader discussion to take place, it is important to build consensus on the accuracy and interpretation of poverty statistics.

This paper has presented comprehensive evidence which indicates that economic conditions improved for Pakistan's poor between 2001 and 2013-14. This is consistent with the sharp decline in headcount poverty rates, some interim, reported by the Ministry of Planning until 2010-11. The overwhelming evidence that poverty in Pakistan declined during this period, however, does not invalidate concerns that problems with the CPI lead official statistics to exaggerate the pace of poverty decline. We show that the problem lies not with the quality of price data but with urban bias in the CPI. Correcting for this bias, to the extent the data allows, raises headcount poverty by 6 to 8 percentage points.

Three recommendations to improve poverty measurement in Pakistan include; First, the PBS needs to include rural markets in the

collection of price data for the CPI and to do so with adequate care. This is an urgent priority. Second, the consumption module in the HIES needs a thorough review, and in particular, the inclusion of a separate module for capturing food consumed outside the home. Third, it is likely time for Pakistan to set a new poverty threshold. As countries develop they need to periodically reevaluate and raise the consumption floor for the least advantaged. Many developing countries have done this. Pakistan's success in reducing poverty on the metric it set in 2001, makes this the right time for raising the bar on whom it will consider disadvantaged and thereby committing to a more robust and rigorous response to poverty and exclusion.





## **18TH AMENDMENT & CHALLENGES TO GROWTH NEED FOR REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS**


**Dr. Vaqar Ahmed**  
**Joint Executive Director - SDPI**

Providing a non-technical understanding of weak economic growth and performance of the public sector in Pakistan relative to that of peer countries, Vaqar Ahmed's *Pakistan's Agenda for Economic Reforms* serves as an interesting introduction to policy makers, journalists, and civil society organizations interested in carrying out research and advocacy work as part of their social accountability efforts and attempts to improve economic governance in the country. Delving one step ahead from recent literature on Pakistan's economy, the author focuses on why reform of institutions dealing with economic policy regulation and management is imperative, while simultaneously speculating issues underlying the past decade, and identifying key areas of improvement and pending structural reforms that Pakistan's economy could pursue for inclusive growth and social justice. Exploring the fragmented structure of energy governance, public expenditure management, trade, transit, and the labor market, this book serves as an important resource for readers wishing to have an

We also discuss the need for early finalization of post-18th Amendment laws, and institutions which can strengthen federal-provincial and inter-provincial economic coordination. The need for improving (global) ranking in governance, economic and related indicators is termed important from the viewpoint of domestic and foreign investors. Pakistan's ranking accordingly can be improved through:

reform of public administration for improved service delivery,

- strengthening the working relationship between the Council of Common Interests, the federal and provincial governments,
- decentralizing non-relevant tasks managed by the economic ministries and attached departments at the federal level,
- restructuring and enhancing the role of the trade promotion institutions in implementing policies for (export) competitiveness,
- expediting reforms at energy sector generation and distribution companies,
- administrative reforms at the Federal Board of Revenue,
- a more strengthened relationship between the Planning Commission (PC) and

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- provincial Planning and Development Departments,
  - deepening of administrative and fiscal decentralization at sub-province level,
  - regular economy-wide regulatory impact assessment to rationalize (regulatory) burden on businesses, and
  - judicial reforms that facilitate businesses and dispute resolution.

It is widely believed that the expected outcome from the above mentioned reforms could be:

- a progressive tax regime in Pakistan which is fair and just,
- improve efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure, 011.jpg
- a focus on competitiveness alongside export promotion,
- improved trade and investment cooperation with neighboring economies which in turn could also enhance dividends from China Pakistan Economic Corridor programme, and
- full and productive employment and decent work for all.



## **EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND LABOR COMPOSITION UNDER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE CPEC AND RELATED PROJECTS**

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The Job Growth and HRD Division under CPEC Center of Excellence collected data of job creation and employment of locals and foreigners from six infrastructure projects: KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian Section, Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur and Lahore-Multan Section), Up gradation of D.I Khan (Yarik-Hakla) Phase I to V, Faisalabad-Multan Motorway (M4) (Package II and III) and E-35 Expressway also known as Hazara Motorway, which are situated in different regions of Pakistan. It showed that ninety percent locals were employed in these mega projects as compared to seven percent Chinese.

1. Multan-Sukkur section of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway is considered as the largest transportation infrastructure project under CPEC. The total number of jobs created under this project up till now is 15,174. From which only 8.5% (1,293) of the labors are hired from China while 91.5% (13,881) of the workers are hired from within Pakistan.

2. For section of the motorway known as M-3 Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway which

connects Lahore M-2 to Abdul Hakeem, 17,246 jobs have been created; of which more than 96 percent (16,676) of the workers possess the nationality of Pakistan, compared to only 570 workers or 3.3 percent belong to China.

3. KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian Section), which connects the Gilgit-Baltistan to Islamabad is project to be completed at \$1,366 million. Only 30 percent (US\$409 million) spending on the project has created almost 7800 direct jobs; of which almost 6000 (76 percent) are Pakistanis while around 1800 (24 percent) are from China.

4. D.I Khan (Yarik-Hakla), Phase I to V will also be upgraded between Zhob (Balochistan) and Dera Ismail Khan (KP). This project is divided into 5 phases. The first phase from Yarik to Rehmani covers an area of 55km for which around 450 jobs have been created. For the next phase from Rehmani to KotBalian (70km), 2500 Pakistani individuals have been recruited. Similarly, more workers include: 500 for Phase III from KotBalian to Tarap (52.5km), 1,300 for Phase IV from Tarap to Pindigheb (50km) and 1,950 for Pindigheb to Hakla (63km). Total employment 6,700 generated under these projects has entirely been hired from Pakistan.



5. Faisalabad-Multan M-4 comprises of 5 sections. Total employment generated under this project is 3,640, including 3,543 labors from Pakistan and only 97 from China.

6. The E-35 Expressway, also known as Hazara Expressway will reduce the total time of travel from Havelian to Islamabad to just 30 minutes and 1020 people employed for this project include 1,000 (98 percent) Pakistanis and only 20 (2 percent) hired from China.  
to only 570 workers or 3.3 percent belong to China.

Altogether the total jobs created are 51,580 from which 47,800 are the domestic workers while 3,780 jobs have been occupied by the foreign workers.



## **Reproductive Behavior in Pakistan: Incorporating Men and Couples to Understand Change Over Time**

**DR. SAIMA BASHIR**

**Research Demographer, Pakistan Institute of  
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Until recently, attention to gender has been largely absent from research on the fertility decline, and scholars have relied on women's reports to assess a couple's attitudes and behaviors regarding reproductive decisions. In patriarchal societies such as Pakistan, men's fertility attitudes and desires influence the reproductive behavior of couples. Given the change in gender roles and relations in Pakistan, it seems likely that women's power has increased, allowing them to assert their own preferences for contraceptive use and childbearing behaviors. However, given that women tend to want smaller families as their education and social statuses improve, the stagnation in fertility levels implies that women are still unable to assert their own preferences.

This research argues that one potential way to investigate the stalled fertility transition is to analyze fertility from a gendered and couple perspective, using women's absolute and relative education to proxy empowerment. Using couple-level data from the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) of 1990-91 and 2012-13, this study conducted two distinct sets of analyses that complement current research on fertility

intentions and provide a better understanding of gender and couple dynamics of fertility intentions.

This study found that disagreement among couples on having an additional child has declined over time, and the risk of spousal disagreement is higher among couples in which the wife is more educated than her husband. Further, when couples disagree, it is the husband who wants another child, especially if the wife has secondary and above education. Next, on the relationship between couple fertility preferences and contraceptive use, husbands' and wives' fertility preferences exert equal influence on contraceptive use. Moreover, the positive association between women's own education and contraceptive use has weakened over time. Although contraceptive use is higher among educated women, uneducated women are driving the fertility decline. The findings of this study demonstrate that despite marked improvement in women's education in last two decades, the stalled fertility level in Pakistan suggest that gender changes at the societal level are slow to translate into gender changes in interpersonal relationships and highlight the importance of collecting information from both husband and wife to better understand the dynamics of couples' fertility decision-making processes.

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