



Population Bulletin

Volume II – Issue II

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News from the Office of PRC

Population Research Centre (PRC) aspires to provide a world-class platform for conducting targeted and in-depth research on issues faced by the communities in Pakistan. The Centre aims to facilitate students in various areas of their population-related research work. Whether it's finding relevant data sources or writing a paper, the Centre In lieu of the same, the Population Research Centre (PRC) launched *The Young Researchers Workshop Series*. The Series' objective is to cultivate the

Population Research Center School of Economics and Social Sciences



YOUNG RESEARCHERS WORKSHOP SERIES



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stan. We believe that this is fundamental for a healthier society that can collectively contribute to the overall prosperity of the country. strives to help students throughout the research process and is dedicated to empowering students to succeed in their academic pursuits.

ground for the next generation of researchers and emerging demographers by helping them explore various tools available for quantitative and qualitative analysis.

PSLM - 2019-20
 PAKISTAN SOCIAL AND LIVING
 STANDARDS MEASUREMENT
 SURVEY
 District Level

*Countries across
 the world are
 relying on ever-
 larger amounts
 of data to inform
 policy design.*



Workshops on PSLM and DHS Analysis

The first workshop of *Young Researchers Workshop Series (YRW Series)* was organized on April 1st, 2022.

The workshop was supervised by Dr. Khadija Bari and facilitated by Ms. Shagufta Shabbar and Mr. Shahid Waheed.

The introductory level workshop was aimed at helping students understand the various dimensions of data available in the PSLM 2019-20 and using STATA to extract relevant data for research analyses. The workshop was attended by graduate and undergraduate students and was very well received.

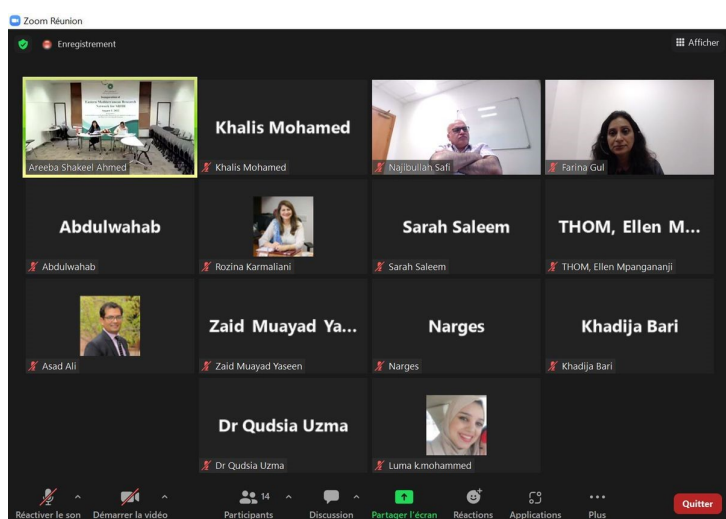


The second workshop of the YRW Series was organized in September 2022. The workshop on **Data Analysis and Applications of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)** spanned over four sessions conducted on September 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 10th. The workshop was headed by Dr. Khadija Bari and facilitated by Mr. Masood Ahmed Siddiqui. It was attended by students and faculty members.

The DHS data set serves as a rich source of information on variables like age, sex, and educational attainment etc. DHS surveys also provide crucial information on fertility and family planning, mortality and nutrition, and the use of health services on a national and international scale. The adoption of standard survey tools enables thorough comparisons of variables on global and subnational levels. The data set is an important tool for researchers who study demography, economic development and social change.

The participants learned about the basic structure and scope of DHS Data and also got to practice how relevant data can be extracted and analyzed for research purposes. The participants regarded the workshop as a great learning experience and emphasized the need for such workshops on a regular basis.

Virtual Network Hub



The Population Research Centre in collaboration with AKUH has become part of the Eastern Mediterranean Research Network for SRHR.

As part of the network PRC will support /facilitate the development of a web-based portal for the network and collaborate with AKU HUB and other members institutions of the network in planning, writing, and implementing joint projects in the region.

Accounting for the Subjective Well-being of Flood Disaster Victims

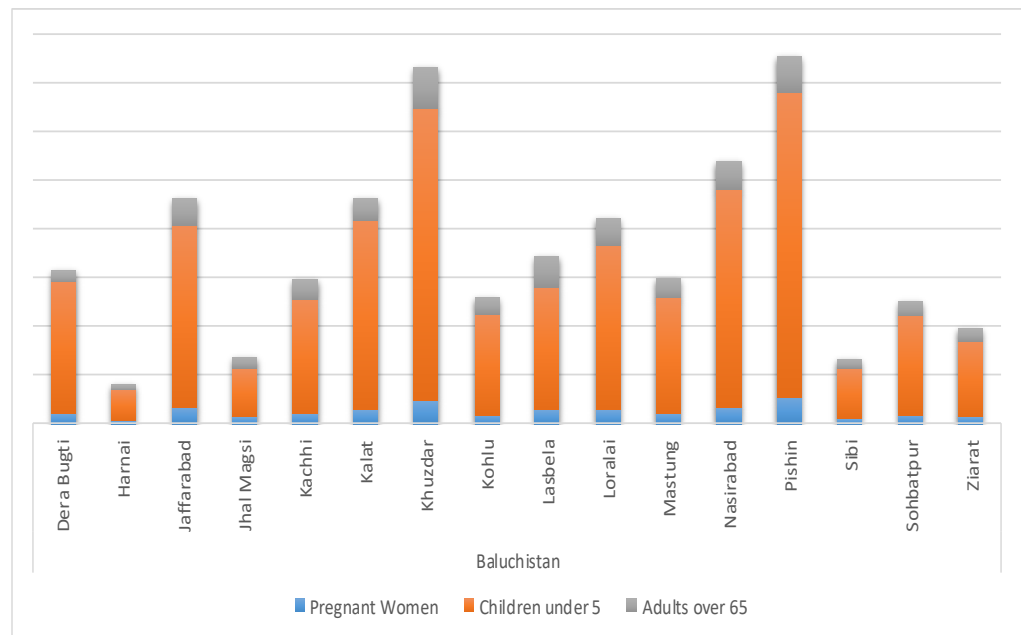
The article is part of a working paper based on measuring subjective well-being of flood disaster victims.

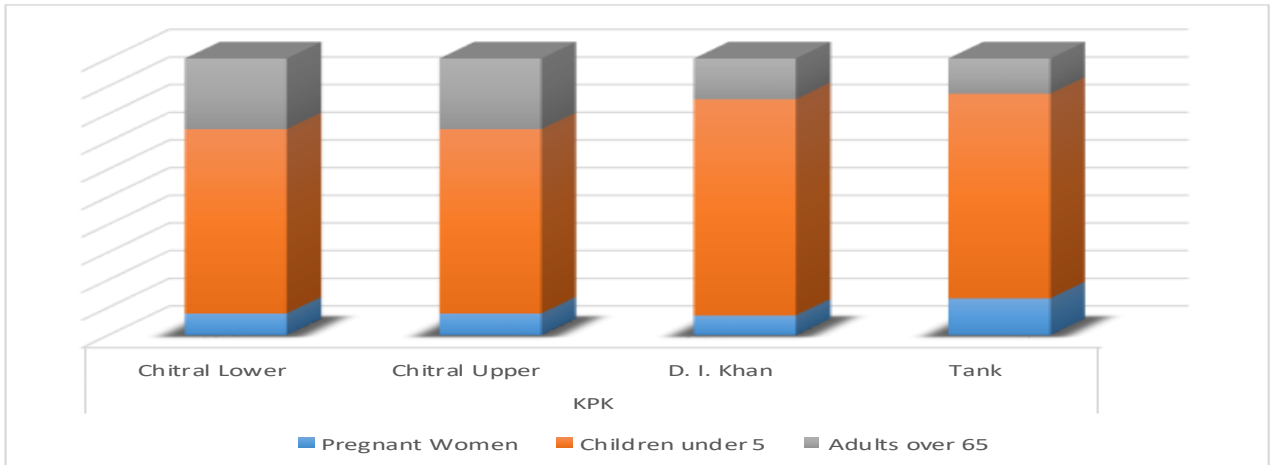
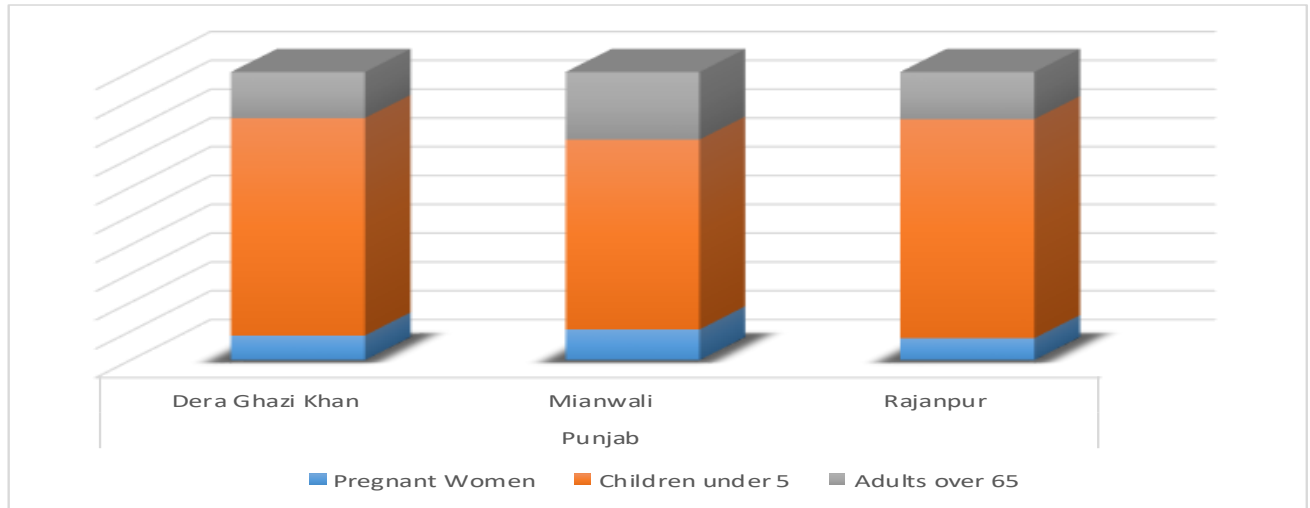
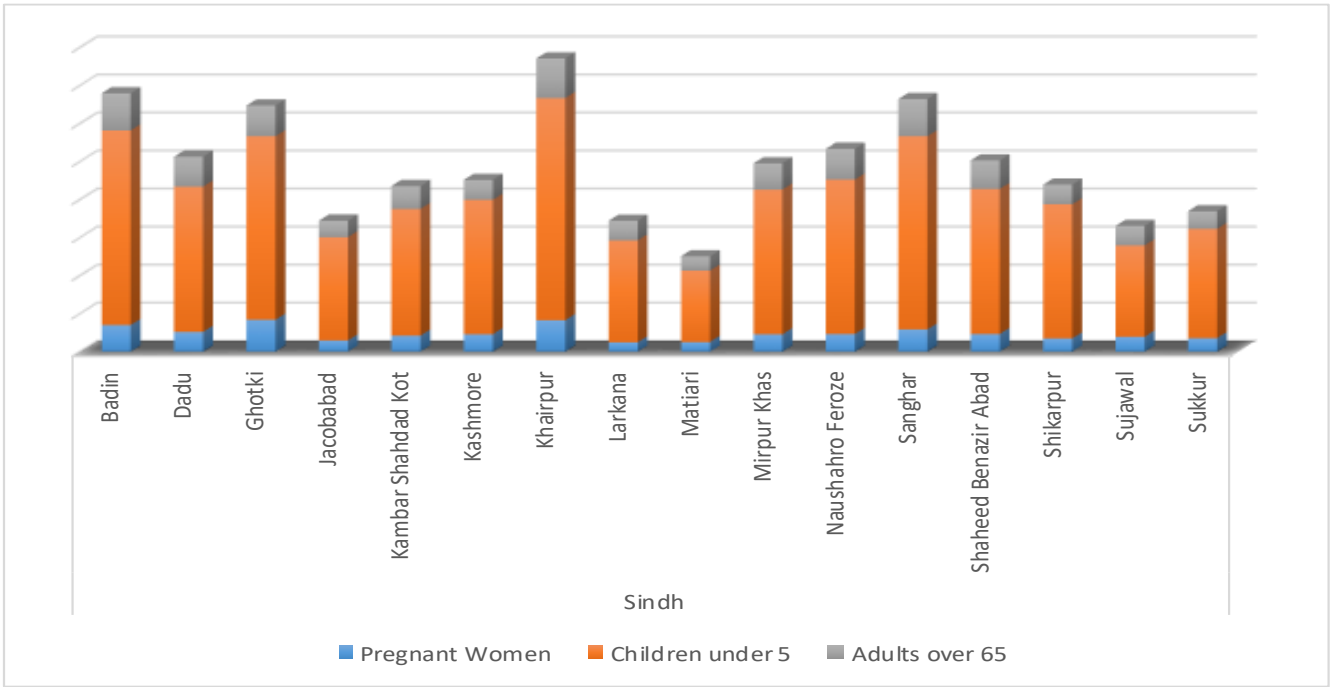
The recent flooding in Pakistan from the highest rainfall in more than three decades has killed at least 1,500 people since June and caused more than \$10 billion worth of damage.

The recent floods in Pakistan have resulted in devastating damage, with thousands of people homeless and many more without food or clean water. The death toll is expected to rise as additional regions become accessible. Flooding destroyed a lot of infrastructures, residential buildings, and commercial facilities. It also promoted widespread health issues.

The humanitarian situation remains dire in the affected areas. The graphs represents the density of the more vulnerable segments of the population i) children under 5, ii) pregnant women and iii) adults aged 65 or more in the severely affected districts of Pakistan in each province (*The graphs are based on the estimates shared by the Population Council Pakistan*). These segments are in need for immediate assistance and support for longer-term prevention and rehabilitation.

POPULATION DENSITY OF THE MORE VULNERABLE SEGMENTS IN REGIONS CHARACTERIZED AS SEVERELY EFFECTED





*The Graphs are based on data estimates shared by the Population Council Pakistan

A lot is being talked about relief activities and rebuilding but its important *to take into account that the damage of such a natural disaster is far beyond just physical. The floods have also had a significant impact on people's subjective well-being.*

In economics, happiness (or subjective well-being) is defined as how people feel about their lives. It can be measured in terms of how people evaluate their lives, what positive and negative effects they experience, or how satisfied they are with different life domains. A number of factors have been found to contribute to an individual's happiness or subjective well-being in general, including income, health, social relationships, and work-life balance. While some of these factors are static (e.g., health), others are more flexible and can be changed through policy interventions or individual choices (e.g., capacity building or work-life balance).

In the wake of the disaster, people are facing a range of psychological challenges. These include dealing with the loss of loved ones, coping with injuries, and managing the stress of rebuilding their lives. Fear and anxiety about the future are also common, as people worry about their safety, their finances, and their ability to rebuild. All of these factors can take a toll on happiness and life satisfaction.

There is hardly any research in Pakistan that has examined the connection between the impacts of natural hazards, such as flooding, and subjective well-being. The connection is imperative to design comprehensive interventions, compensation policies for insurance, or governmental support plans. Knowing which kind of potential damage is relevant when going beyond direct and monetary damage of natural disasters is crucial. It is essential to redesign relief and compensation policies that would increase perceived capabilities and life satisfaction among disaster victims.

It suggested that in the short term, interventions that focus on providing basic needs (e.g., food, water, shelter) and psychological support (e.g., counseling) can help to reduce the negative impact. In the longer term, rebuilding infrastructure and supporting businesses will be critical in restoring people's livelihoods and helping them to rebuild their lives.

Promoting subjective well-being should be seen as an investment in the future rather than a cost. By investing in policies that improve people's lives today, we can create a happier and healthier population that is better equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow.

Economic growth cannot be seen as the only goal of policy planning; when people's subjective well-being suffers, it can have a ripple effect on the economy and society as a whole. Policies that promote subjective well-being are not just about making people feel good – they can also positively impact economic outcomes. For example, research has shown that happy workers are more productive and happy countries tend to have higher rates of GDP growth. Happiness and Subjective well-being are also linked to better health outcomes, which can lead to reduced healthcare costs.

The articles in the Student's Corner are submitted by the students studying in different programs at IBA.

Inequalities Disguised under the Mask of 'Representation': Gender Binaries

By: Amna Adnan

I would like to begin this article by presenting a mainstream and socially dominant narrative of Pakistan, 'Women have successfully gained access to multiple economic and social opportunities that were previously deemed impossible to achieve.' This statement makes a radical claim of increased representation of women in all aspects of society, including the workplace, legal bounds, etc. I would highly disagree with the perspective that women's representation has successfully increased over the past few years.

The narrative stated above is nothing but a mere play of words to disguise the societal truths. It should be acknowledged that the social level of hierarchy accessible to women has still not reached the level of equality that the term 'representation' implies. Gatekeeping certain economic positions, including that of a CEO and an Executive Director, is still a common practice disguised under the mask of 'representation'.

The concern in this context should be, 'does this increased representation reflect the overall population of women of Pakistan, like it does for the Pakistani men?' The answer is very straightforward and an absolute NO. Women in Pakistan are overrepresented in the fields that conform to their gender stereotypical roles and expectations, most commonly in occupations like lower-level academia, secretarial and clerical work. Claiming representation of women does not seem as problematic and delusional as claiming *equal representation*.

Thus, the statement mentioned in the introduction would never seem 'untrue' when analyzed from a surface level. However, if we dive deeper into its layers of explanations and evaluation, we will uncover how the concept of 'equal representation' is disguised under the commonly and proudly used term 'representation'. Only after realizing the grave and detrimental dangers of using the two terms interchangeably will we be able to deconstruct the origin of unequal representation and, ultimately, be able to drag ourselves away from the delusions of '*achieved equality*'.

You might wonder why my article is solely fixating on equal representation of women even though the term 'gender binaries' have been included in the title. So, let's discuss the representation of all genders in this society. If the transgender community of Pakistan is reflected upon, there is an explicit and open denial of any social opportunity to them, solely due to the nature of their gender being 'queer'. While it should be acknowledged that a fair proportion of trans people are educated and merited in contemporary times, still an access to a just and accommodating workplace is a concept unknown to Pakistan's society. Moving onto the representation of men in Pakistan's society, the issue that arises is that of capitalism instead of gender inequality. The reason why men find it difficult to reach higher levels of the social ladder is because these hierarchies are constructed in a way that promotes nepotism and keeps the higher levels only accessible to the upper classes. The possibility of working-class men making their way up the social hierarchy to the level of self-actualization is very rare.

I would conclude this article with a statement that I firmly believe in, 'the tiny steps that we take have the potential to revolutionize our minds in particular and our societies at large.' *Here's to a society that lays its foundation and principles of equal representation and meritocracy!*

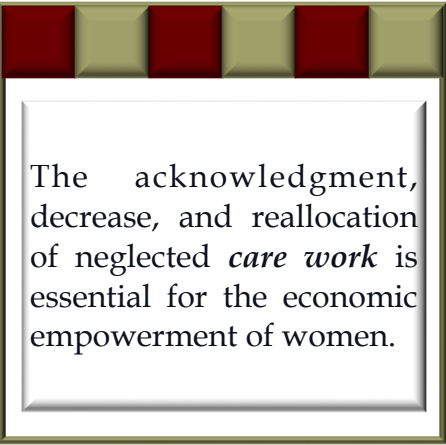
Why Care Matters for Women Economic Empowerment?

By: Sumaira Ghafoor, PhD Scholar—IBA, Karachi.

Women's economic empowerment is the progression by which women fulfill their right to economic empowerment with action capability that benefits themselves, their families, and their communities. Investing significantly in women's economic empowerment establishes a path for alleviation of poverty and for reducing disparities. Therefore, it appears necessary to provide equitable access by arranging enough time and opportunities to become involved in economic activities.

The distribution of women's time and other resources badly influences their capacity to build up their personal abilities and their kids' abilities. It likewise influences their general way of life, as estimated by national income measurements. National income statistics neglect to catch critical components of women's lived involvement due to the realm of unpaid care work. Non-salaried labor involvement is a root cause of women's economic disempowerment.

Most unpaid care work like childcare, sick care, and elderly care is performed by females. Wives devote 14 to 42 percent of their working hours to childcare in contrast to husbands, who only spend 1 to 20 percent of their non-leisure time on care work. Moreover, unpaid elderly care work is increasing due to the demographic evolution, increasing elderly population, and decreasing rate of births. Various composite indices are developed to assess the gap between the genders in obligation for the monetary and foster care of dependents. For instance, Gender-related Development Index (GDI) for women's relative health and wellbeing and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) for participation in salaried work, executive and management positions, and parliamentary seats. In addition, the Gender Care Empowerment Index also measures men's involvement in the women's sphere.



The acknowledgment, decrease, and reallocation of neglected *care work* is essential for the economic empowerment of women.

Discovering answers for unpaid care and reproductive work is a significant issue confronted by a vast majority of females undertaking jobs as they try to simultaneously satisfy their obligations in childbearing and rearing. Unpaid care work, gender inequalities, human development, and inclusive growth are interlinked. Usually, the disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work carried out by women in Pakistan acts as a systematic source of gender inequalities in economic outcomes.

Pakistan is the second worst country in the world with regard to gender equality, ranking 145 out of 146 countries in the 'Global Gender Gap Index 2022' report. If women engage in market production, there would be a considerable decline in unpaid care provisioning. It justifies the strong need for policy interventions in the care economy of Pakistan.

Therefore, a potential roadmap is important to operationalize and measure the economic empowerment of women. Measures at varying levels of societal network aggregation are required to operationalize the economic dimension of women empowerment. A few usually utilized measures at the household level are: women's command over household income, proportional participation in family care, and use and possession of household assets. At the societal level, measures such as females' access to jobs, possession of resources and property, availability of finances, contribution and additionally portrayal in domestic trade unions, and access to marketplaces. At the regional/national levels, measures are women's representation in high-paying jobs, women CEOs, representation of women's economic interests in macroeconomic policies, and state and federal budgets.

It is worth noting that Punjab has made some progress in closing the gender gap. The female labour force participation rate in Punjab is higher than in other provinces, which is 19.59 percent. The government of Punjab has established The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) to review and monitor the laws, policies, and programs for women's empowerment. Moreover, Women Development Department has taken various economic alternatives, including public sector employment, daycare centers, maternity leave, and a gender reform action plan project.

Addressing the problem of unpaid care work is imperative for women to get equal opportunity and representation in the labour market. Thereby, care work is to be tracked down in various arrangements. These settlements can be formal and informal. For instance, the health services sector offers a portion of this care work; the nature of this provision is formal and public. National and local facilities for childcare, nursery schools, extended care facilities for handicapped and sick people, and care for the elderly establish the care economy. It involves both paid and unpaid care activities.

Moreover, the dissemination of unpaid care work among different family members matters in policy-making as it has serious implications for the prosperity of people and families together with economic development. The female labour force participation rate in the urban areas of Pakistan is just 9.8 percent. Consequently, the framework of action should be guided by two principles: *Uniformity in providing care through co-obligation* and *Fairness in care getting through broad access to extended care facilities*. Equality in caregiving through Co-responsibility and Equality in care receiving through universal access to quality care. In addition, women's unpaid work can be recognized through conditional cash transfers to women for the care of children, the elderly, the disabled, or the sick.

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