

POLICY PRESENTATION

WOMEN'S AUTONOMY AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCY IN PAKISTAN



The Population Research Center (PRC) hosted a roundtable talk focused on the policy implications of the research project titled "Women's Autonomy and Unintended Pregnancy in Pakistan," as part of the DHS Fellowship Project 2023. The event featured a presentation by the Director of PRC, Dr. Khadija Bari, who started by highlighting the mission, objectives and achievements of the Centre, she then outlined the project's objectives, methodology, and key findings.

The presentation by the research team (Dr. Khadija Bari, Dr. Lubna Naz and Dr. Junaid Alam Khan) highlighted the link between women's autonomy and unintended pregnancies in Pakistan, emphasizing the significance of this issue for reproductive health and women's empowerment. The dialogue centered on refining policy approaches based on the research insights. Participants discussed actionable strategies, including education initiatives, enhanced access to reproductive health services, economic empowerment, and legal reforms. The roundtable underscored the potential for evidence-based policy changes and reiterated the need for continued cooperation between governmental bodies, academia, and research institutions to drive meaningful improvements in Pakistan's policy landscape.

The Centre is grateful to the representatives from the Sindh government, Ms. Shireen Mustafa (Secretary, Social Welfare Department), Mr. MB Dharejo (Deputy Commissioner Sindh) and Mr. Shehzer Amir Shaikh (SDGs Support Unit, Sindh) along with representatives from Aga Khan University Hospital, Dow University of Health Sciences and Institute of Business Management for their participation, highlighting cross-sector engagement in shaping effective policies.