



POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN



FORMAN
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

24TH ANNUAL POPULATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2023

Forman Christian College University, Lahore

21st - 22nd November 2023, Lahore

Healthy Families and Communities in a Changing Society The Role of Family Planning

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) maintains a history and mandate to emphasize the crucial relationship between population and social development. As PAP navigates the third decade of its journey in an ever changing and evolving world, we pledge to continue and foster this mandate. Toward that end, PAP has, to date, convened 23 Annual Population Research Conferences (APRCs) covering a range of topics related to population and human development, demographic transition, and policy directions to meet the challenges of a rapidly growing population.

The PAP Annual Population Research Conferences have been successful in engaging researchers and academics, policy makers, politicians, religious leaders, private sector stakeholders, media, civil society and development partners through their participation and contribution in technical sessions, lectures and panel discussions held during these conferences. The PAP and its members continuously strive to look beyond demographic indicators and aim to influence Pakistan's policy and practice through good quality research on key population challenges and issues to ensure that decisions are fully informed, respond to ground realities, and driven by evidence. Moreover, the PAP provides a platform that offers an opportunity to bridge the various social science disciplines including economics, public and social policy, statistics, demography, public health, sociology, geography, and anthropology to deliberate upon solutions for pressing population and development related issues of Pakistan in this changing world. We aim to uphold the significant linkages between population and social development during the 24th APRC and advance thought leadership in population that responds to the national context and emerging population needs and imperatives.

SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL POPULATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE

As Pakistan navigates the numerous economic and political challenges that continue to impede advancements in key development areas, there is a need to consider the changing social context for the current policy environment. There exist specific challenges related to Pakistan's population structure and dynamics, fertility patterns, and the state of family planning in the country. Pakistan's population is growing at an unprecedented pace with an inter-censal growth rate of 2.4%. Since 1950, the population has doubled three times even though Pakistan started its family planning program in 1960s. The fertility rate declined over last 75 years from 6 births per woman to 4 births per woman in 2006. Since then, the fertility rates are stagnant (TFR 3.6) and do not show any sign of decline (NIPS, 2019). This unprecedented population growth in Pakistan over last 75 years has led to a shift in age structure of the country. Pakistan has a high share of young population with 28 % of the population between 15 and 29 years old, and 37% of the population comprising children aged 0-14 years. At the same time Pakistan has the highest rate of urbanization in South Asia with 36% of its population living in urban areas, with almost 60% of the population in Sindh living in

urban areas. In the absence of a comprehensive policy response which accounts for these urban migration trends in the country, urbanization is posing serious challenges for Pakistan.

The evolving situation needs consideration in the light of international commitments and recommendations of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) recommendations, and the National and Provincial Narratives on Population. There exist emerging needs and opportunities for advancing these advocacy tools in a manner which is pertinent and relevant to emerging social changes which have implications for individuals, families, and communities. Creating an enabling environment for supporting health families and individuals must consider the impact of urbanization and migration, changing social and gender norms in the country with an increasing number of women in the work force, and responding to some the needs and aspirations of almost 70 million young Pakistanis, with clear youth representation in the population data and representation in decision making.

To facilitate a discussion on these challenges, PAP is convening the **24th Annual Population Research Conference** in **Lahore**, collaboration with **Forman Christian College University (FCCU)**, on **21st and 22nd November 2023**. The Conference will be organized using a hybrid approach, with on-site and virtual participation.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the 24th Annual Population Research Conference is to bring policy makers, donors, practitioners, researchers, and youth to a common platform to discuss population problems, challenges, and potential solutions for translating the *National and Provincial Narratives on Population* into actionable solutions to realize the role of family planning in population development, in the context of a changing socio-cultural context.

CONFERENCE THEME & SUB-THEMES

The overarching theme for the 24th Annual Population Research Conference is:

Healthy Families and Communities in a Changing Society
The Role of Family Planning

The conference will cover the following three sub-themes, with a wide range of relevant topics under each sub-theme.

| SUB-THEME 1 Health Systems, Urbanization & Migration | SUB-THEME 2 Shifting Social & Gender norms: Women in the workforce | SUB-THEME 3 Youth Development |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Migration and impact on family planning commitments • Urbanization and private health sector response for family planning • Challenges and Opportunities for public sector service delivery for family planning • Functional integration of family planning in health care services • Ensuring Quality of Care in health services and family planning • Leveraging digital solutions and technology for family planning | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Structure, Norms of Motherhood, and Family planning • Women’s autonomy, mobility, and inclusion in decision making for family planning • Opportunities for Social and Behavior Change (SBC) for shifting social and gender norms and fertility behaviors • Safe working spaces & provision of health services for women in the workforce, including family planning • Leveraging digital solutions and technology for family planning | <p>Key Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Population Structure and Demographic dividend • Information and data on youth healthcare needs • Child wellbeing and development, opportunities & barriers • Health system responsiveness and inclusion of youth voices in in healthcare decision making • Opportunities for Social and Behavior Change (SBC) for shifting fertility intentions & supporting youth driven demand for family planning |

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

PAP invites social scientists, academics, researchers, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds, particularly research submissions from students in both national and international institutions of higher education, to submit research and program abstracts based on the conference theme and sub-themes for oral presentations in Technical Sessions and poster presentations during both conference days. All submissions will be subjected to rigorous blinded review process for selection. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to present their findings at the conference as oral or poster presentations. Authors accepted for oral presentations will be required to submit a conference paper on the abstract for publication in the Conference Proceedings.

The due dates for submissions are:

- Submission of abstract: 1 September 2023
- Announcement of acceptances: 30 September 2023
- Submission of 2500 word Conference Paper: 10 November 2023

[24th APRC Abstract Submission Form](#)



Please click here to submit your abstracts online

YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

PAP in collaboration with Population Services International Pakistan (PSI) invites undergraduate and graduate students at any college or university in Pakistan to submit essays for a **Youth Essay Competition** on the topic below.

Topic: Impacts of rapid population growth on Pakistan's development

Guidelines:

- Essays should be between 1200 and 1500 words
- Essays should be based on a review of literature
- Essays must be the author's original work

[Youth Essay Competition Submission Form](#)



Please click here to submit your Essay online

PAP and PSI will convene a review committee for selecting **three winning essays**.

- **1st Prize:** PKR 50,000, invitation to present the work at the Inaugural Session of the 24th APRC, publication as "Youth Voices" in the PAP Newsletter
- **2nd Prize:** PKR 25,000, and invitation to present the work at a Plenary Session of the 24th APRC, publication as "Youth Voices" in the PAP Newsletter
- **3rd Prize:** Publication as "Youth Voices" in the PAP Newsletter

Key dates for the Youth Essay Competition are:

- Submission of essays: 10 October 2023
- Announcement of winners: 30 October 2023

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A Detailed Program for the 24th Conference will be issued before the Conference. For more information, please contact us.

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