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## SOCIAL EQUITY, DECISION-MAKING AND FAMILY PLANNING HURDLES AND ROLE OF ADMINISTRATION

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
<p>Family Health Planning; Social Equity; Decision Making; Human Development; Government of Pakistan</p>	<p>Social equity and family planning are core issues for Human development and health wellbeing of a country. This paper discusses the social equity issue regarding family planning and health-related decision-making among males and females in Pakistan. This study graphically demonstrates Pakistan Demographic Health Surveys of 2012-13 and 2017-18 aggregated analysis covered the time horizon 2007-2018 in family planning decision-making and Pakistan's birth control issues and discussed the descriptive data. Also, the Government of Pakistan's (GOP) policy initiates from 2007 to date have been discussed. By referencing this sociological inquiry, evidence shows that males' awareness, education, and decision-making for family planning have a higher impact on the Fertility rate than females' decision-making in Pakistan, which creates social equity gap. Moreover, this study recommend that male awareness and thinking be optimized and changed positively by involving practitioners, religious scholars, and education and awareness campaigns.</p>
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### INTRODUCTION

Social equity and good governance are core areas of public administration to analyze government effectiveness. Gender role, male dominance, and gender inequality are the main factors for measuring public wellbeing. Equity is not an easy concept to explain, but administrators use this term/tool to analyze social problems (Lucy, Gilbert & Birkhead, 1977). In developed states, administrators have used this social equity tool to deal with public issues (Gooden & Portillo, 2011; Andrews, Groeneveld, Meier & Schröter, 2016; Wal, 2017). Moreover, the social equity is essential public administration issue to review government performance (Frederickson, 2005; Riccucci, 2009; Riccucci & Ryzin, 2017). In this connection, in this research study, the social equality is analyzed in terms of the family planning. Male dominance and unawareness about family planning and having the best education levels were explained by Pakistan demographic and health survey. In this connection, male decision making, desire to have more children, and

their impact on fertility ratio have been analyzed in this study as discussed by previous studies (Aslam, Zaheer, Qureshi, Aslam & Shafique, 2016; Bhura, Ariff, Qazi, Ahmed, Nisar & Soofi, 2020).

This study's objective is to help understand social equity context and raise awareness in males of Pakistan. It can also break society's stereotypical thinking and stigmatizing attitude towards females about their decision-making right in family planning (Ganatra, Bhurgri, Channa, Bawany, Zafar, Chaudhry & Saleem, 2009). It will also help the society and authorities embrace equal rights of both males and females, which will resolve many other social inequality issues in the future in Pakistan and other developing countries (Park & Liang, 2019; Riccucci & Ryzin, 2017). This paper comprises five parts. In part one, the introduction and rationale of study, section two with the critical concepts of the social equity, awareness about the family planning, women empowerment, contraception trend, family planning mythology, previous administrator role in Pakistan, and existing literature review are discussed in this regard (Memon & Jonker, 2018; Aslam, Zaheer, Qureshi, Aslam & Shafique, 2016; Ataullahjan, Mumtaz & Vallianatos, 2019). In part three, methodology and procedure of this study are explained. Section three describes the outcomes/results, findings, discussion, and government role, even though last section explains conclusion.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Pakistan is a developing country where more than 63% of the population lives in rural areas and does not have essential living means (Ministry of Finance, Pakistan, 2020). In this regard, the population of Pakistan is increasing at the highest rate annually compared to other Asian countries, which is why the government of Pakistan seems to fail to provide adequate facilities to its masses. In this connection, despite the enormous government expenditures in different institutions, there is considerable misbalance but less in education, health, and infrastructure. It can improve by conducting in-depth research on the public administration policies (Bearfield, 2009).

### Social Equity and Population Dynamics

One of biggest hurdles in proper public administration is a massive Population (World Bank, 2020a). The population control is a severe issue in developing countries (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019) that affects the other economic indicators and figures because it widens gap between demand and supply of necessary facilities. The world health organization and united nations organization have provided awareness and knowledge to the general public worldwide about the population control or family planning. Along with urbanization, the population is also increasing day by day, where it is estimated that by 2050 more than half of the world population will live in urban areas (World Bank, 2020b). That is why developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries consider urbanization sustainable development goals (Abbas Gillani, Ullah, Raza & Ullah, 2020). Population control has worsened due to its limited resources and inadequate supply of necessary facilities, adversely affecting the health and education sector. The solution to these issues lies in proper administration. Public officials with the limited resources can handle ethical issues and provide justice to their masses in a better way with the help of a robust public education system (Cárdenas & Ramirez, 2017).

Pakistan has one of highest Youth ratios of world population, where around 64% population is below age of 30, and 29% is between 15-29 years of age group (National Institute of Population

[Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019](#)). Youngsters are the main pillars of the country's destiny. Due to rapid population growth, the government cannot provide fundamental rights to them, i.e., employment opportunities, medical and the most important educational facilities to meet the modern world's standards. As per 2017 census, Pakistan population is 208 Million approx. 49% female and 51% male and regional constitution as 63% Rural and 37% Urban. Moreover, the literacy ratio is 62%, with 72% males and 57% females. Education is indeed essential for the progress of the economy and society in all fields of life. However, along with education, we also need to understand other factors and their significance in our life. Rights of decision making in family planning, as per Article 34 of the Constitution of Pakistan, states that "steps shall take to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of the national life" ([Government of Pakistan, 2011](#)).

Therefore, changing male population's mindset regarding female rights and decision-making is crucial, especially in family planning. The statistics show that comparatively, females; males are dominant in making decisions regarding family planning in Pakistan, making implementation process more difficult for population control. Although, with increased literacy rate, awareness raised to some extent. Nevertheless, due to social inequality attitude, males dominate in family planning decisions, which causes slow progression in population control measures ([Major, 2011](#); [Raheel et al., 2012](#); [Park & Liang, 2019](#); [Ramasamy, 2020](#)). The government of Pakistan (GOP) is trying to provide full security to women, such as Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act of 2010 (Part 1) ([Secretariat of Pakistan, 2010](#)). To consider family planning issues, GOP and male and female health workers raise awareness among males in rural areas, despite having an adequate education level. There is conventional thinking with religious and cultural boundaries in Pakistan because people are reluctant to think about it. It suggested that if both males and females are educated and aware of the population control measures, they can appropriately understand importance of contraception techniques. Besides, the government's efficient strategies need to understand the mixed/diversified society ([Vigoda, 2002](#)).

### **Mythology of Family Planning**

Although government has announced many population control programs worldwide, family planning is crucial for overpopulation. However, the results are not as satisfactory as expected. Every government regime allocates funds and develops centres to augment awareness among the public for population control and family planning, but most are of no use. There are many reasons for this inadequacy, e.g., the poor education, cultural boundaries, religious constraints, and unemployment. The literacy rate in Pakistan is 62%, 72% are males, and 52% are females ([Ministry of Finance, Pakistan, 2019](#)), which is also a hurdle for the country's economic growth. Cultural boundaries also link with education level as people rely on family traditions rather than an intellectual approach. Mostly the population in Pakistan lives in rural areas where the more children any woman has, the more healthy she is. They do not feel the significant impact of women's health on the family ([Memon & Jonker, 2018](#)). The rural people are conservative in Pakistan society as they are reluctant to use modern contraceptive techniques and medicines. Because of their mythological concept, these things have side effects and are harmful to health. This behavior is not only because of Illiteracy, perhaps, but some other factors also added to it. On the other hand, a research study revealed that people consider it supportive and helpful for the country to have the maximum number of the children ([Ataullahjan, Mumtaz & Vallianatos, 2019](#)).

### **Contraception Trends**

The trend of contraceptives has shown positive progress in Pakistan as it is most useful in urban areas. The rural region cannot understand contraceptives' significance due to their living style and lack of education. The government has also developed care centres and consultancy centres to spread awareness about this concept. Pakistan is Islamic and conservative country, where contraceptive-related discussion is not considered decent than Western society. Attitude is lack of appropriate knowledge rather than religious concerns. The government of Pakistan has made its sustainable development goals more challenging by considering the cultural and religious boundaries as they have to allocate more workers with male and female staff (Ganatra et al., 2009; Shah et al., 2018). The contraceptive usage trend is mostly increasing in the urban areas of the cities of Pakistan. These other factors are illegal chemical usage in manufacturing goods, fake medicines, and ignorance, miscommunication between partners. As per statistics, only 34% of population (2017-18) use modern antifertility techniques as compared to previous (2012-13) figures, it was 30% (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019). Still, it is much lower than some underdeveloped African countries and other regional countries of south Asia (Ministry of Finance, Pakistan, 2019). There are different kinds of long-term, permanent and short-term methods used by married and unmarried people (in-relationship) worldwide.

In male-dominant societies, contraceptive techniques depend on male partner. However, most of the females' methods, i.e., sterilization<sup>ii</sup>, IUDs<sup>iii</sup>, contraceptive pills, as male methods, are few, and condom usage methods are considered as most secure and cheap. Male sterilization is not standard and rarely used in Pakistan because people associate this with males' impaired reproductive ability, and whoever uses this is considered sexually dysfunctional (Na-Mard *ivin* its native language). The average birth rate per woman in Pakistan is 3.6 children, whereas the rural average is 6.6 percent (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019). In comparison to previous PDHS<sup>v</sup> (2012-13), the average birth rate per woman was 3.8 children (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2013), which shows a steady trend (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and M.I Inc., 2008). However, the statistics of PDHS from 1990-91 showed a downward trend as 4.9, 4.1, 3.8, and 3.6 children per woman. This trend links with the usage of contraceptives in Pakistan, which shows an upward to steady trend since 1990-91 PDHS to date as 9%, 12%, 30%, and 34% in surveyed results accordingly. This mild increase in contraception usage from previous years resulted in population growth at the highest pace in Asia. Province-wise breaks up have a more precise picture where Balochistan, KPK, and FATA show the least percentage of contraception 14%, 14%, and 23%, respectively (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019).

### **Women Empowerment (WE)**

Pakistan is a dominant male society, where the male is responsible for households' livelihood and a decision-maker in family planning matters (Sultana et al., 1994). Now females are also taking part in this decision-making and stand side by side with their male partners. This behavior was adopted for many social reasons, i.e., the inflation, urbanization, competition, and, most importantly, providing the best lifestyle to their children with their limited resources. In this connection, females are encouraged to participate in national and international platforms to acknowledge their importance and responsibilities for making important decisions regarding family matters. It evidenced that women can manage and deal with many challenges like men,

which compelled them to renew their policies with the gender equity ([Represent Women, 2020](#)). However, rural people do not consider this approach as kind gesture. Many NGOs are working in Pakistan to empower the women's rights and raise awareness among them. It is stereotypic thinking that females can only play the role of caretaker in society ([Nisar, Prabhakar & Torchia, 2019](#)).

However, many kinds of research related to women's empowerment and their role in society. Moreover, the government focuses on women's empowerment by educating them about their rights in many developing countries ([Singh et al., 2019](#)). Pakistan's current situation shows progress in this trend, where most of the key positions are held by women in many national and multinational organizations. A couple of years ago, one of the leading commercial banks lifted the ban on hiring female staff by reforming the policy, an example of social equity awareness in society. It shows that a diversified workforce also plays an essential role in the organizations' performance by implying the social equity concept ([Ricucci & Ryzin, 2017](#)). However, urban areas do not show much progress in this context. This situation arises due to lack of education, traditional/cultural restrictions, and a lack of awareness regarding social issues that makes this scenario awful. According to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development 1994, "advancing gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, along with ensuring women ability to control their fertility are keystones of population and development-related programs" ([United Nations, 1995](#)).

### **Administrative Policies**

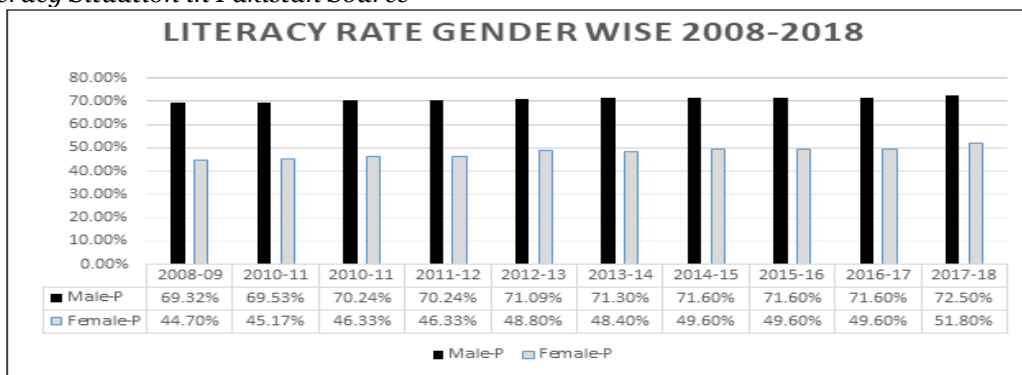
The government of Pakistan has been initiating many programs and awareness campaigns to control overpopulation; somehow, these initiatives do work to some extent. However, due to a lack of education and an irresponsible attitude, people are still reluctant to benefit from these programs. Governments and NGOs run campaigns and conduct seminars and surveys in rural and urban areas. They are experiencing many restrictions as people are more conservative in rural regions ([Salahodjaev & Azam 2015](#); [Saqlain et al., 2020](#)). Education is everyone's right; however, due to rapid population growth and scarce resources, illiteracy rate increases day by day. Figure 1 shows that Pakistan's literacy rate is 62%, almost constant, and shows fractional progress compared to previous years. Baluchistan, KPK, and FATA have the minimum literacy rate compared to other populous provinces like Punjab and Sindh. Due to this Illiteracy, people do not know their fundamental rights and cannot understand awareness campaigns on social issues. Unfortunately, Pakistan literacy rate is insufficient due to limited expenditure allocation for education and health in budgets. Thus, these results in causing problems for governance in urban areas, intra-provincial, inter-provincial, and intercity migration trends observed in the country's previous couple of years ([Rasmus et al., 2020](#); [Abbas, Xu, & Sun, 2021](#); [Raza et al., 2021](#)).

The Urbanization trend has been observed in Pakistan's megacities, especially in Lahore and Karachi (the most populated cities of Pakistan). The contraceptive trend and family planning would help the megacities to control the population. However, the migration effect affects this progress negatively and results in the population growth. Islamabad (Capital City of Pakistan) shows a negative trend, where urban population decreased compared to the last census. The overall population increased, which lies in the development of more slums and rural areas, a big problem for capital city management ([World Bank, 2020b](#)). In male-dominant societies



like Pakistan, it depends on male partner to decide family planning matters. Females' Illiteracy is also a cause of male dominance in society, as females do not have equal opportunities as men, which is a social injustice. However, rural areas are the most exposed to male dominance, but the situation is much better in urban areas. Gender inequality has been examined in the Public Administration field with other important discrimination factors, i.e., race, cast, and socio-economic status, which have equal importance (Ministry of Finance, Pakistan, 2020). Thus, the rural migration, the religious myths, and cultural differences make it challenging to implement population control policy in rural areas, resulting in population growth (World Bank, 2020b).

**Figure 1**  
*Literacy Situation in Pakistan Source*



*Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-2018 the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan*

### Awareness and Social Equality

There are many kinds of research on the gender inequalities, especially in Muslim developing countries regarding female education, family planning matters, and contraceptive usage in females. It is a known fact that female literacy is essential for understanding population control and contraception. The literacy ratio and definition of a literate person are varied countries to country; however, as per standard UNESCO (2008) sustainable goals definition: "A literate person who can read and write simple irrespective of the education level." In this connection, female education also significantly impacts female issues, i.e., birth control issues and female role in society to reduce the gender discrimination (Savas, 1978; Schultz, 2002). It has been studied that without upgrading the female enrollment in the institutions and providing equal opportunities to females, government cannot achieve its desired goals (Abu-Ghaida & Klasen, 2004). Moreover, the policymakers are also a failure if they do not deal with the gender equality (Lincove, 2006). In this scenario, however, the inequality still exists among different tribal and ethnic groups, despite women's participation and achievements in society (Hseih & Winslow, 2006).

Female discrimination prevails due to stereotypical thinking and cultural boundaries formed by people who do not associate with religious beliefs. However, the extremist groups and fake religious preachers relate this issue with ethical boundaries. In contrast, Islamic societies give females more respect and superiority in family-related matters, which need to be realized and appreciated by society. Pakistan's population is almost equal to males and females but not equivalent in literacy rate. In urban areas, the female literacy ratio is better than in rural areas;

however, it is still lesser than the male ratio in both regions. Two scenarios are prevailing in Pakistan about knowledge about family planning. In the first scenario, both males and females get an education. Still, the female partners have information about family planning from lady health workers or other sources without informing them. It does not work because she cannot decide on such matters alone, which results in population growth (Fernandez & Kambhampati, 2017).

In the second scenario, both partners have the education; however, the male partner plays a dominant role as per society norms, and therefore, population control and population growth depend on the male partner. People need healthy food, educational facilities, reliable medical services, employment opportunities, and better living standards as the population increases. In this connection, the urbanization has been rising for many years because the People consider urbanization a much-needed movement to access all the necessary living facilities. Rural-urban migration creates a challenge for the city governance, although the 2017 census did not get the information on this migration trend in Pakistan. In this connection, however, 2017-2018 PDHS get this useful information to analyze the migration trend for future planning at the state level. Thus, the findings show that 11% overall and 17% urban migration observed is more than twice the rural migration of 7% (National Institute of Population Studies, Pakistan and ICF Inc., 2019).

### **Women Rights and Social Equity in Islam**

Islam is religion of peace, and a true Muslim follows teachings of Islam. There are two primary components of references for Muslim teachings in Islam "The Holy Quranvi" (The book of God) and Hadith [actions, sayings, and lifestyle of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)]. There are many places where Allah ordered, and His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) preached about practicing respectful and kind behavior with women, not only for Muslim women but for all women of the world. Surah Nisah viii is a subsection in the chapter 4 in The Holy Quran (pp 1-736), devoted to explaining and telling women's rights and wellbeing. As mentioned in verse 19 of Surah Nisa (summary), viii "Treat them well and nor you should harsh to them even you find her guilty, it will opt to you then that stay with her or leave her with the compensation (Haq-Mehrix) decided at the time of Nikkahx (Marriage Contract in Islam). Furthermore, in many other places, women have equal rights as men, and everyone will be equal in front of God Almighty on Day of Judgment (Qiyamatxi). Priority can achieve only based on purity and pious character. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) xii also focuses on women's rights. There are two famous and authentic reference books of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s [actions, sayings, and lifestyle of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)]; Bukhari Sharif and Sahih Muslim.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) granted very respectful status to women, especially daughters. A summary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 's sayings about the respect of women is mentioned here; i.e., a couple is blessed with their first child, a daughter. Another saying explains that the one who has a daughter and who raised her with dignity, respect, love, and best education, then she will protect her parents from hellfire on Judgment Day. The best one among men is those who treat their wives well. Another saying of The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained the rank of the mothers in such a privileged way as: "Paradise is under the feet of the Mothersxiii" (Al-Bukhari; Al-Muslim). In this connection, the reason for mentioning the above sayings and references is to clear the religious grounds of the Islam about gender equality and the western

misperception about women's rights in the Islamic societies (Salahodjaev & Azam 2015). Islam does not only pay attention to the rights of men or women; it emphasizes the human rights and wellbeing for all the human beings (Gouda & Potrafke 2016). Moreover, it also observed that people who do not treat their female or male partners correctly are thus considered uneducated religiously.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY**

In this study, we took male and female surveys (PDHS) aggregate data of the decision making towards health, desire to have more than two children, perception towards ideal family size, and their impact on fertility rate under consideration. In this article, the age group of 15-49 has been considered for the analysis. As per UNESCO and World Bank, the female's fertility age is 15-49 years, and to maintain reliability of results, we study same age group of males. However, male fertility age is more extended than females. In this paper, ten years of data sets from the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey of the 2012-2013 and 2017-18 were used, conducted every five years. One of the key reasons to use this survey is that it covers the comprehensive demographic characteristics supported by the USAIDxiv, which has confirmed its validity and reliability. Moreover, PDHS is a comprehensive survey that analyzes and collects the data of various social issues at a national scale, which depicts good analytical and brainstorming tools to conceptualize research and its authenticity. It has been conducted under expert supervision of demographers in the Bureau of Statistics of Pakistan (Aslam et al., 2016; Sarfraz & Hamid, 2016).

In PDHS 2017-18, 11,831 Women and 3,084 Men have been surveyed, compiled their data. While in the PDHS 2012-13, 12,931 Women and 2,970 had gauged. For PDHS, eight regions (Islamabad (ICT), Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Baluchistan, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan, & FATA) were divided into 16 data sets (regions further into Urban & Rural) and 580 Enumeration Blocks (Clusters) as per households living there. Randomly 28 members were selected from each cluster ( $58 \times 28 = 16,240$ ) and interviewed/surveyed. However, we used 14,915 members' segregation mentioned earlier for this analysis. In PDHS 2012-13, response rate was 93.1 by eligible females and 78.1 by eligible males, and in PDHS 2017-18, the response rate was 94.3 by eligible females and 86.1 by eligible males. In this study, we adopted the findings of PDHS surveys, which support this study's research objective (Raheel et al., 2012; Azmat et al., 2013; Tappis et al., 2015; Aslam et al., 2016; Sarfraz & Hamid, 2016). This study is comprehensive discussion paper that analyses PDHS descriptive survey data with critical discussion and graphically demonstration to analyze research outcomes and recommend future research directions and policy recommendations for betterment.

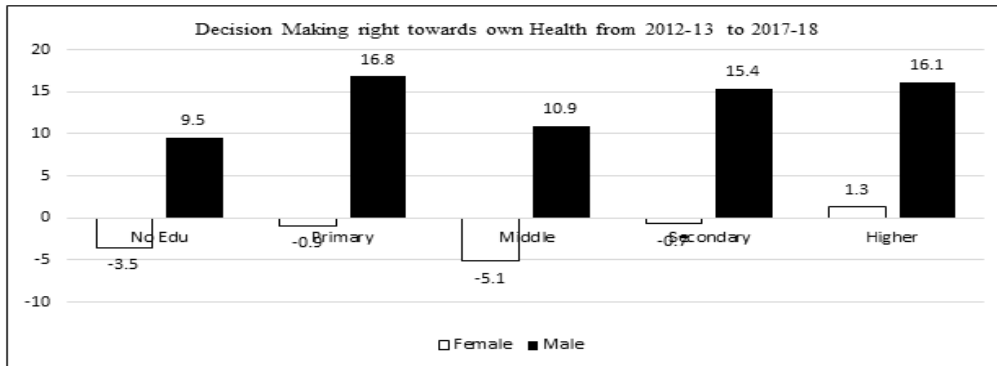
## **RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

In this section, data on education level, knowledge of contraception and decision making about health perceptible of both gender analyzed and contraception trends. It is a general perception that the fertility rate is directly related to education level and awareness in females. However, male education's role and decision-making power regarding the family planning in developing society is also impacted by male education's role and decision-making power. Comparing the results of both the surveys and gender perceptions shows that overall female decision-making right towards their health has decreased by 1.78% in Figure 2. Though, male dominance shows that male decision-making rights towards their health increased by 13.74%. Female decision-making and empowerment slightly increased in higher education levels; however, the rest



showed a decreasing trend from 2012-13 to 2017-18. On the other hand, male decision-making right towards their health has increased in all the education levels, supporting this research's objective.

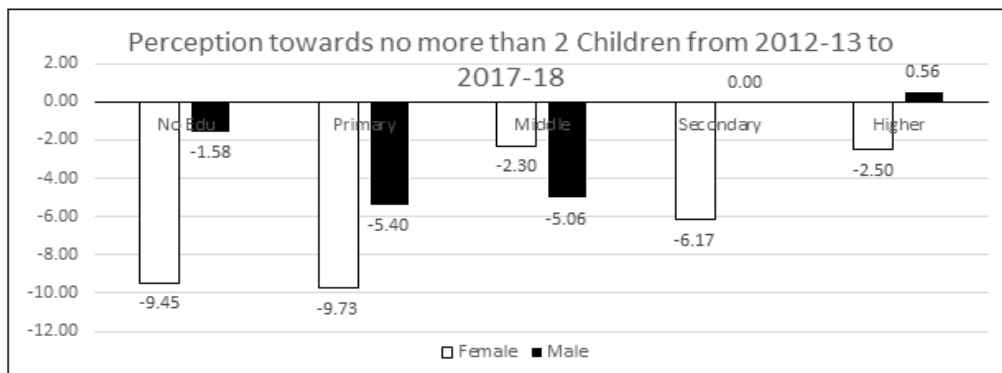
**Figure 2**  
*Male and Female Decision-Making Situation*



Source: PDHS Surveys 2012-13 and 2017-2018

The 2nd variable results, "do not want more than two children," shows same trend in survey results where overall effects showed a negative perception trend among both genders in Figure 3. It clarified that both genders do not prioritize family planning despite having least resources and low socio-economic status. Having an optimal education level, a negative attitude towards more children has been observed where overall females showed a negative attitude than males. It explained that females want more children and do not give importance to contraception usage and family planning despite having optimal education level. The overall female showed adverse 6.03% effects than male with negative 2.30%, in education. It observed that a slightly positive trend in the male's higher education level is present, which also supports this study's objective.

**Figure 3**  
*Gender Perception towards No. of Children.*



Source. PDHS Surveys 2012-13 and 2017-2018

Another variable, "ideal family size," has not shown any significant change in both the genders (Female -0.08% and Male 0%). It explained that both females and males do not bother about the size of the ideal family size, and it further showed that males' are least interested in the significance of family size in both surveys of PDHS 2012-2013 and 2017-18 in Figures 4 and 5 respectively.

**Figure 4**  
Change of ideal family size perception.

**Figure 5**  
Overall change of perception of Family planning



Source, PDHS Surveys 2012-13 and 2017-2018

## DISCUSSION

Pakistan has been facing many hardships in healthcare and population control, affecting the country's progress (Aslam, 2020). Above discussion and results showed positive trend towards a better gender parity index and women empowerment in Pakistan. It inferred from the results that if females have equal and worthy rights for family planning measures parallel to males, results would be much better for achieving Pakistan sustainable population control goals (Bhura et al., 2020). Moreover, females should have equal rights in education and decision-making of family-related matters. The male desire to have more children and decision-making rights are dominant irrespective of the educational attainment. It analyzed that the communication gap between couples regarding family planning and contraceptive use reduced (World Economic Forum, 2017). However, the male knowledge and perception regarding family-related matters significantly affect family planning and fertility rates more than females (Amir-ud-Din & Abbas, 2020).

The results show that only educational attainment is insufficient to control population growth and family planning. This issue needs special attention by raising awareness among the male population to treat their females properly and better (Amir-ud-Din & Abbas, 2020). One of crucial aspect needs to be discussed: providing equal and justifiable rights to women (Mamun & Ullah, 2020; Iqbal et al., 2020). It observed that we rely on the male workforce whenever we talk about hardships and challenging work. However, when we talk about the childbirth and

caring, we are inclined towards females (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2018; UNDP, 2020). Also, if we analyze this aspect on religious grounds, it is concluded that Islam gives reasonable authority and respect to the women's rights as she is responsible for managing the house and bringing up children. Many misconceptions about Muslim women and Muslim society in the west related to females' rights and how the men treat women (The Holy Quran; Al-Bukhari; Al-Muslim).

### Government Role towards Family Planning Education and Awareness

We took Delivery Service Centers (DSCs) as an administrator role towards this problem. There is little or slow progression observed in government concerns toward developing family planning awareness. As per official statistics of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics explained in Table 1, since 2017, other lady health workers and teams, specialized male mobilizers (more than 2,500 annually across the country) have added this workforce to raise awareness among males. This masculine force aimed to provide education to general public about gender inequality and contraception awareness in society, which is excellent initiative by government. Moreover, positive attention has increased the staff of lady health workers and enriched their responsibilities and awareness programs. Government of Pakistan's programs and their progression towards male mobilizers and community service centres show significant initiative, reflecting the government measures towards Human Development Index, Gender Inequality Index, and Gender Development Index deficiencies better. Another reason for hiring male mobilizers in the workforce is that women are less responsive towards lady health workers. Further, the females experience limitations in discussing these private matters with anyone without their male partners' consent, which can also access the earlier results. Moreover, PDHS also showed that females are less responsive to the family planning matters, even with lady health workers, regardless of having the optimal education.

**Table 1**

*Government Role towards Delivery Service Centers in Pakistan. Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2018-2019 the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan*

Year	Delivery Service Centers						Total
	FWC	RHS-A	MSU	RHS-A	MM	CBS	
2018-19	4,130	271	303	-	2,810	600	8,114
2017-18	3,439	261	295	38	2,782	-	6,815
2016-17	3,405	253	178	86	-	-	3,922
2015-16	3,405	253	178	86	-	-	3,922
2014-15	3,000	230	325	200	-	-	3,755
2013-14	2,891	207	292	133	-	-	3,523
2012-13	2,891	207	292	133	-	-	3,523
2011-12	2,891	207	292	133	-	-	3,523
2010-11	2,853	182	292	129	-	-	3,456

### CONCLUSION

This work discussed role of administration, male dominancy, and family planning hurdles in Pakistan. The analysis showed that Pakistan time situation has improved in male dominance and awareness in providing female empowerment and decision-making, making the situation much better than in the past couple of years. Despite slow progression in males' literacy rate

compared to previous years, they are still unaware of the consequences of population growth and the significance of the contraception trend, which is the original context of these programs. Above debate concludes that both genders have their importance, and if both play their roles with mutual understanding and honesty, results will be much better. It reflected that despite increased education level, males still believe in stereotypical thinking regarding harmful effects of contraception use and family planning higher than females. Society will progress as results of PDHS showed that couples who prefer mutual consent on family planning matters prove to be as good decision-makers for their future generations. It can be a good sign of social equity and awareness. However, government should focus on matters as original plan is to minimize gender parity index by raising the awareness for education, health, and other HDIs to enhance wellbeing.

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## Notes

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- <sup>i</sup> Usage of family planning method to control the population
- <sup>ii</sup> Method of birth control to make a person unable to reproduce (intentionally)
- <sup>iii</sup> An intrauterine Device to prevent pregnancy as a birth control method
- <sup>iv</sup> A proverb sued in rural area for humiliating the male toward reproduction capacity and male dignity
- <sup>v</sup> Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the National Institute of Population studies Islamabad with the technical assistance by ICF and funded by USAID.
- <sup>vi</sup> The most Secret book in Muslim Religion and the most readable book in the world.
- <sup>vii</sup> Nisah is an Arabic word meaning “the woman”
- <sup>viii</sup> Just to summed up the relevant context of SAYING in precise form.
- <sup>ix</sup> A Shariah legal obligation on a man to pay something to a woman in case of divorce so she will manage her livelihood after divorce.
- <sup>x</sup> The Secret/Pious marriage contract in Muslim Religion
- <sup>xi</sup> A word donated in Muslim society to Day of Judgment when this whole world will have vanished.
- <sup>xii</sup> The most Secret Prophet in the Muslim World and the messenger of Humanity from God the Almighty in the world.
- <sup>xiii</sup> This SAYING make the mother the most secret in Muslim societies and place them in higher rank than men.
- <sup>xiv</sup> United State Agency for International Development who provide assistance to conduct demographic and health surveys worldwide.