

## **Patterns of Population Growth in South Asia: A Study of Pakistan (1972-81)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Pakistan is having one of the highest population growths of the world. Pakistan is not a homogeneous region with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects. The disparity in terms of these factors leads to the differential population growth but detailed study of inter-censal time period of 1972-81 has shown amazing findings as least developed parts have shown maximum and abnormal population growth

**Key Words:** - Pattern, Population growth, Octave division, Growth rate, Inter – censal, Barani area

### **Introduction**

Pakistan is not a homogeneous region with respect to economic, social and environmental aspects. The disparity in terms of these factors leads to the differential population growth. Some districts of Pakistan have shown remarkable change in growth of population and some indicates lowest per cent change. To discuss the district level changes in the growth of Population in Pakistan, we have made eight categories (Octave division) of the districts of Pakistan for demonstration of population changes at district level during the selected period of 1972-81.

A detailed description of each of the eight categories is given below.

### **Category A**

In this category seven out of eight districts showing highest percentage change, are from Balochistan province except Kohistan (KPK) .

This category consists of the districts of Panjgur (182.9 per cent), Turbat (156.4 per cent), Kalat (132.6 per cent), Kohistan (127.5 per cent), Zhob (110.3 per cent), Loralai (107.1 per cent), Khuzdar (95.2 per cent), and Chaghi (84.5 per cent). These districts indicate indicate the highest per cent change of (84.5 – 182.9).

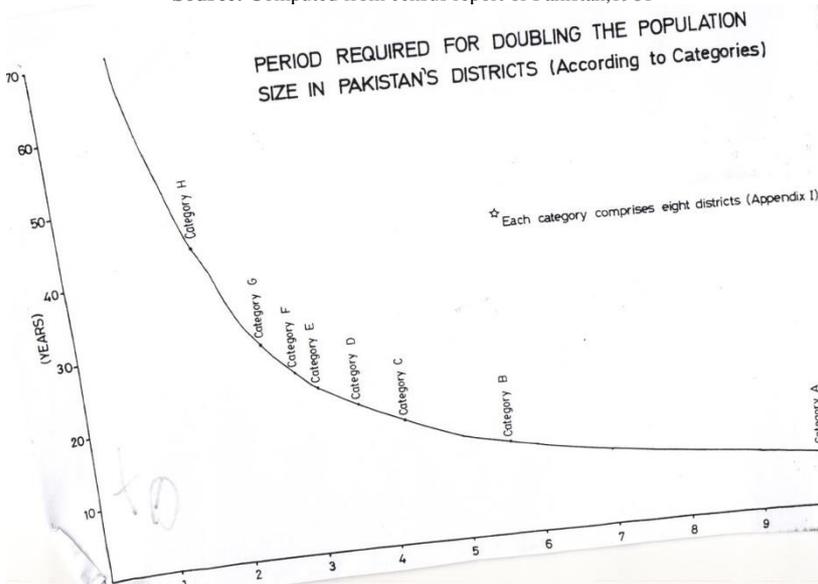
Together these eight districts increased their population from 1178680 in 1972 to 2603449 in 1981 at an intercensal rate of 120.9 per cent. Their total share in

Pakistan's climbed from 1.8 to 3.1 per cent during the period in question (1972-81) (table 1)

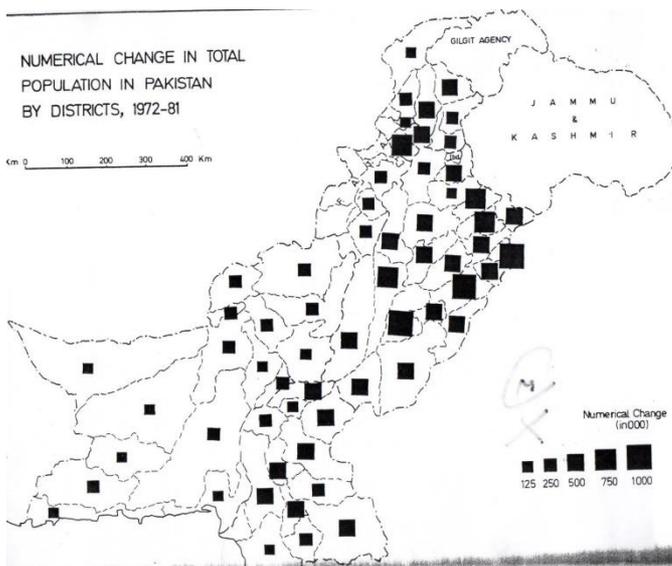
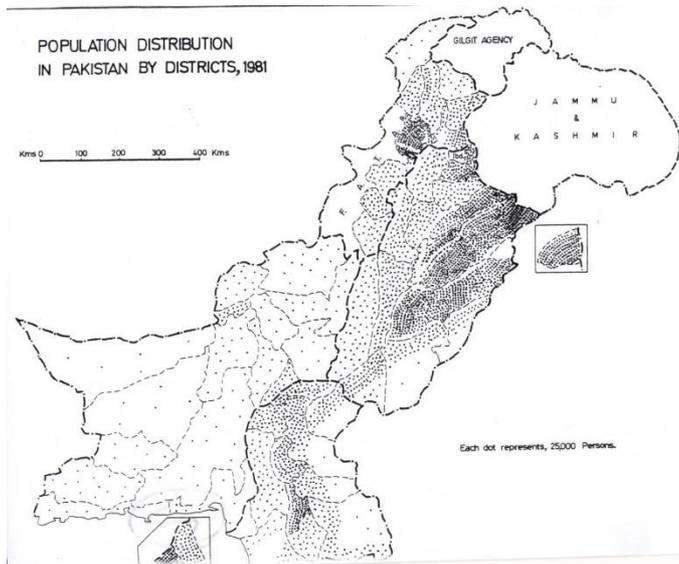
**Table 1**  
**Total population change in Pakistan by categories**  
**(Regions), 1972-81**

Category	Population 1972		Change 1972-81		Change 1972-81		Annual Average Growth Rate %
	Number	% of Pakistan	Number	% of Pakistan	Number	%	
A	1178680	1.8	2603449	3.0	1424769	120.9	9.8
B	4283494	6.6	6828268	8.1	2544774	59.4	5.6
C	6160350	9.4	8707541	10.3	2547191	41.3	4.2
D	8308903	12.7	1120183	13.3	2892910	34.8	3.6
E	10430671	15.9	13564462	16.1	3133791	30.0	3.1
F	10637667	16.3	13468410	15.9	2830743	26.6	2.8
G	8664949	13.6	10824198	12.8	1959249	22.1	2.4
H	12718483	19.5	14516669	17.2	1798186	14.1	1.7
F.C.T.I	234813	0.4	340286	0.4	105473	44.0	4.5
F.A.T.A	2491230	3.8	2198547	2.6	- 292683	-11.7	-1.5
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>65309340</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8453644</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18944304</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>

Source: Computed from census report of Pakistan, 1981



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This category has shown a total numerical change of 142,476,9 and percentage change of 120.9 per cent. This category has shown the highest change of 120.9 per cent but on the other hand numerically this category has shown lowest change out of the eight categories. So, this magical change along with other factors is a matter of calculations as well.

With such growth rate the population gets doubled in 7 years as its Annual average growth rate is almost 10 per cent.

All the districts are neither agriculturally developed, as more than 50 per cent of the Baluchistan is covered with mountains and hills, nor in the field of

industries as beside coal mining in Kalat, there is no particular sign of industry. Although roads have developed particularly in large part of Balochistan Plateau when this change of percentage is analyzed and other factors are considered. Such as birth rate which is almost same in Pakistan and factor of migration in which Balochistan have lowest rank as people migrated to Sindh, Punjab, KPK. and Balochistan are 10 Lac, 3.5 Lac, 2.0 Lac and 1 lac respectively, it is said that this percentage change might be due to the under enumeration in 1972 census, over enumeration in 1981 census or both collectively.

## **Category B**

This category comprises of the districts of Nasirabad (76.2 per cent), Karachi West (67.8 per cent), Kharan (66.7 per cent), Vehari (62.0 per cent), Kohlu (61.8 per cent), Karachi East (55.4 per cent), Pishin (51.9 per cent), and Quetta (51.2 per cent).

Together these eight districts increased their population form 428,349,4 in 1972 to 682,826,8 in 1981 at an inter-censual rate of 59.4 per cent. The share of this category in Pakistan's total population rose from 6.6 to 8.1 per cent, during the period in question.

This category has shown a numerical change of 254,477,4 or 59.4 per cent. In case of Kharan, Kohlu and Pishin the high rate of change may be due to the over enumeration in 1981, under enumeration in previous census or both collectively. Nasirabad is a comparatively fertile district of Balochistan as it is a part of Kacchi Plain in respect of agriculture due to extreme canal irrigation and common use of tube wells instead of old irrigation method of Karez. Vehari (62.0 per cent) has attained a great progress in the field of agriculture and in-migration from other districts, which played a great role in increasing its population. In case of Karachi West (67.8 per cent) and Karachi East (55.4 per cent) is the in-migration from other parts of the country particularly, form the Punjab and KPK(N.W.F.P.) provinces. Due to the sea port with reference to the mercantile importance and the huge industrial installations. Quetta is the provincial headquarter of Balochistan as well as important commercial industrial center. Being an urban industrial and commercial center, the increase in its population is a natural factor.

## **Category C**

The third category comprises of the districts of Lasbela (50.2 per cent), Tharparkar (47.8 per cent), Dir (45.2 per cent), Jacobabad (42.8 per cent), Swat (38.8 per cent), Malakand (38.7 per cent), D.G. Khan (38.5 per cent) and Muzaffargarh (38.3 per cent).

Together these eight districts increased their population from 6160350 in 1972 to 8707514 in 1981, at an inter-censual rate of 41.3 per cent, during the period in question.

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The population of such category gets doubled in 17 years as its annual average growth rate is 4.2 per cent

This category has shown a total numerical change of 2547191 during the inter-censal period of 1972-81 and a percentage change of 41.3. In this category fall districts having different relief features. Lasbela is a part of Kacchi plain of Baluchistan. So, the district is important in respect of agriculture. This district is also a second major industrial center of the province. As Lasbela is a coastal district, fisheries are also an important profession of the people. So, these factors played a vital role in increase of its population. Dir, Swat and Malakand are mountainous districts of KPK, with little fertile valleys; particularly Swat is an important river valley. On the mountains slope terrace cultivation is dominant. Here the fertility rate may be high due to the religious and climatic factors. Jacobabad is a fertile district of the lower Indus plain. Due to the alluvial soil and better irrigation system, this district becomes an agricultural district. Most of the rural population is engaged in agriculture. Natural increase as well as in migration may be the main cause of population increase in this region. In Tharparkar district, population is increasing due to the newly agricultural facilities. Muzaffargarh is a newly developed region in the field of agriculture. People migrated here from least developed districts like Mianwali and densely populated districts like Multan for newly emerging lands for cultivation.

#### **Category D**

The fourth category consists of the districts of Kacchi (37.9 per cent), Lahore 937.0 per cent), Bahawalpur 935.7 per cent), Khairpur (35.3 per cent), D.I. Khan (34. Per cent), Dadu 933.6 per cent), Sanghar (33.1 per cent) and Peshawar (31.8 per cent).

Together these eight districts increased their population from 8308903 in 1972 to 1121813 in 1981 at an inter-censal rate of 34.8. Their share in Pakistan's total population climbed from 12.7 to 13.3 per cent during the period in question.

Population of such category gets doubled in 20 years.

This category has shown a total numerical change of 2892910 and percentage of 34.8. Kacchi is one of the important plain areas which are collectively known as "Kacchi plain". So, beside the matter of enumeration, fertile land is the important factor of population increase. Lahore is an important commercial and industrial center. Here the natural increase and in-migration from other districts have increased its population. Presently, the urban population in Lahore district is 85 per cent. Lahore city has been the largest city of Pakistan up to the census of 1941, since than Karachi is the largest city of Pakistan in terms of population size. Bahawalpur, Kairpur, D.I. Khan and Dadu are basically agricultural districts. These districts were not highly developed before the "Green Revolution" of 1960s, which brought a new element of prosperity in the economy of the Pakistan. On the whole, natural increase remained a dominant factor in the growth of population in these districts. Peshawar is the capital of KPK province as well as the major trade

and commercial center. Here the dominant factors of population increase are of natural increase and in-migration. People shifted here for better standards of living. Peshawar Plain or valley has been formed of rich alluvial soil brought by Kabul River. It covers almost entire Peshawar.

### **Category E**

The fifth category of population change consists of the districts of Rahimyar Khan (31.6 per cent), Chitral (31.2 per cent), Sukkur (30.9 per cent), Kohat (30.5 per cent), Multan (30.2 per cent), Gujranwala (29.9 per cent), Kasur (28.8 per cent) and Bahawalnagar (27.9 per cent).

Together these eight districts increased their population from 10430671 in 1972 to 13564462 in 1981 at an inter-censal rate of 30.0 per cent. Their share in Pakistan's total population climbed from 15.9 per cent to 16.1 per cent during the period in question.

The population of such category gets doubled in 22.5 years as its annual average growth rate is 3.1 per cent.

The category has shown a total numerical change of 3133791 and percentage change of 30.0 per cent. Numerically this category has the highest change. Chitral is a mountainous district in the extreme north of the country. Chitral is an important river valley of KPK So, it is an important fruit producer and has attraction and opportunities for more people. Rahimyar Khan, Sukkur, Kasur, Bahawalnagar, Multan and Gujranwala are basically agro-based districts. Previously vast stretches of land were lying as cultivable vast-lands into green blossoming fields by the provision of irrigation facilities and use of chemical fertilizers etc.

This attracted a number of people from the districts having high man to land ratio. These districts are now developing also in the field of industries. These factors are responsible for increase in the population, along with natural increase. Kohat is located in the Indus basin plain.

### **Category F**

The sixth category comprises of the districts of Badin (72.9 per cent), Karachi South (26.0 per cent), Mianwali (25.7 per cent), Bannu (25.3 per cent) and Mardan (25.1 per cent) are lying in this category.

Together these eight districts increased their population from 10637667 in 1972 to 13468410 in 1981 at an inter-censal rate of 26.6 per cent. The share of this category in Pakistan's total population decreased from 16.3 per cent to 15.9 per cent during the period in question, 1972-81.

The population of such category gets doubled in 25 years as its average annual growth rate is 2.8 per cent.

This category has shown as total numerical change of 2830743 and percentage change of 26.6 per cent. Numerically this category has shown the highest change.

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The districts of this category are situated either at a higher developed areas of Pakistan or in the area which is developing at a higher rate, especially in the field of agriculture, except Karachi South. Industrialization is also taking place in these districts especially at Sheikhpura, Jhang and Sahiwal. These factors caused a remarkable per cent change in population. Here the well-developed irrigation system, good soil, use of order technology etc. are the salient features of their agricultural development. Sheikhpura, Jhang, Sahiwal, Bannu and Mardan are developing in the field of agro-based industries. So, here both the agricultural and industrial sectors of economy are capable of supporting their growing population; the district of Mianwali is not highly developed, where economy is mainly based on agriculture, which is still non-mechanized. Primitive methods of agriculture and lacks of water for irrigation are also the main problems of the area. This sector of economy cannot fulfill the requirements for the growth of population. That is why, the people of this region tend to migrate to other regions to earn a better livelihood. In case of Badin nearness of concentrated urban centre Hyderabad with industrial development checks the permanent migration from district. Karachi South is a highly industrialized and urbanized centre. The people are migrated here at a bulk rate, especially from the KPK and Punjab, due to the better job opportunities.

### **Category G**

The seventh category of population comprises the districts of Gawadar (23.7 per cent), Larkana (23.6 per cent), Sibbi (22.5 per cent), Nawabshah (21.6 per cent), Sargodha (21.5 per cent), Rawalpindi (21.4 per cent), Mansehra (20.2 per cent) and Hyderabad (20.1 per cent).

Together, these eight districts increased their population from 8864949 in 1972 to 10824198 in 1981 at an intercensal rate of 22.1 per cent. Their share in Pakistan's total population decreased from 13.6 cent to 12.8 per cent during the period in question, 1972-81.

The population of such category gets doubled in twenty-nine years as its annual growth rate is almost 2.5 per cent.

These categories have shown a numerical change of 1959249 and percentage change of 22.1 per cent. Larkana, Nawabshah and Sargodha are agricultural areas, Gawadar is a coastal district and Rawalpindi a *barani*(irrigated by rain only) region. In 1972, so they are not in the high percentage change category. These districts are not highly industrialized except Rawalpindi. Agriculture remained their source of income. Gawadar and Mansehra especially is a forest covered district, are not attractive for permanent settlers, so the people may migrate to the other areas. Rawalpindi district, which lies in the rugged land of Potowar Plateau is comparatively more developed than the other districts in respect of industry, out-migration from this district can be attributed to surrounding areas i.e. Islamabad, Wah, Hassanabdal and Texila etc.

Hyderabad is a very important and well-developed district. But its per cent change is only 20.1 Hyderabad is the second biggest center after Karachi. Although its inter-censal growth rate has been low but it is one of the large size districts of Pakistan in terms of population.

## **Category H**

The eighth and final category consists of the districts of Abbotabad (19.7 per cent), Gujrat (18.7 per cent), Attock (16.5 per cent), Sialkot (15.7 per cent), Shikarpur (13.3 per cent), Thatta (12.6 per cent), Jhelum (11.0 per cent) and Faisalabad (10.5 per cent).

Together these eight districts increased population from 12718483 in 1972 to 14516669 in 1981 at an inter-censal rate of 14.1 per cent. Their share in Pakistan's total population decreased from 19.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent during the period in question, 1972-81.

The population of such category gets doubled in 43 years as its annual average growth rate is only 1.6 per cent.

This category has shown total numerical change of 1798186 and percentage change of 14.1 per cent. Some well-developed districts like Sialkot, Faisalabad and Gujrat are found in this category, while Attock and Jhelum are two *barani* areas. Shikarpur and Thatta are two important districts of Sindh in respect of agriculture and Abbotabad is an important district of N.W.F.P. Gujrat is an important industrial and commercial centre. Attock and Jhelum are located in Potwar Plateau are *barani* region. These districts are both industrially and agriculturally under-developed.

Due to low level of development in these two vital sectors of economy *barani* region is not capable of supporting high population.

Faisalabad which lies in highly developed central irrigated plain, and it can be explained in terms of the decline of industry (especially cotton textile), and high level of water-logging and salinity. Faisalabad was affected adversely by this decline because it was the main centre of this category. It resulted partly in out-migration and also may be due to under-enumeration thereby bringing down the per cent change in population of Faisalabad. In Sialkot, the factors such as its location near Indian border, *barani* region and out-migration to Lahore which has an attraction of being developed and more employment opportunities, are the main causes of its slow rate of population growth.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

In this paper attempt has been made to study the history of population growth in Pakistan. For this purpose, the past trends in the evolution of the country's population have also been discussed. According to the first census after independence in 1951, the population was recorded as 30.5 million. The present

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population growth rate of Pakistan is in the vicinity of three per cent per annum, highest among the six largest countries of the world in terms of population size.

Decline in death rate is also one of the basic reasons of high growth rate, as it has declined from 36 per thousand in 1931, to 10 per thousand in 1978. On the other hand, crude birth rate decreased only from 49 per thousand in 1931 to 41 per thousand in 1978. So, growth rate gradually increased from 0.6 per cent to 3.6 per cent in the years of 1901 and 1972, while it dropped again to 3.1 per cent in 1981 census.

So far as the percentage is concerned, we can briefly state that in Pakistan, the areas of good economic prosperity have engaged high populations, when compared with those of marked under-developed. The areas of high per cent change in population lie either in the already developed or newly developing areas after the decade of development of sixties. Exception is the case of first two categories, which is matter of under or over enumeration.

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