MEDIA COVERAGE

PIDE BASIC NOTES - 8



June. 2023

PAKISTANIS: WHO ARE WE?

BASICS Notes Number 8

Durre Nayab

Language Homogamy: An Insight into Marriage & Language in Pakistan

Marriages between people of different ethnic backgrounds can be a major source of assimilation in a country, like Pakistan, having a broad ethnic spectrum. Inter-ethnic marriages can foster social cohesion and stability, which with time can blur tensions created due to ethnic differences. Likewise, language, which is primarily an outcome of ethnic background, has a major influence on our personal identities. These identities sometimes can be divisive and weaken cohesion in the larger identity.

To capture the prevalence of ethnic exogamy, or homogamy, in Pakistan, the PIDE BASICS¹ survey asks questions in a new way to give a better insight into the issue. In most surveys, language is captured by asking the respondents about the language they speak, and the response to this question is taken as representing their ethnic background. This is misleading, and the results of the BASICS survey confirm this distortion in interpretation. The survey asks three questions to gauge the ethnic backgrounds of the respondents and the language spoken by them. The questions are:

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PIDE NOTES 8 – Web Media Coverage

The News

https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1084724-inter-ethnic-marriages-significance-highlighted

The Nation

https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Jun-2023/intra-ethnic-marriage-trend-very-strong-in-pakistan-pide-survey

Pakistan Observer

https://pakobserver.net/significance-of-inter-ethnic-marriages-highlighted/

Daily Times

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1107568/pide-research-highlights-significance-of-inter-ethnic-marriages/
http://dailytimeskp.com/news.php?id=64655

Frontier Post

https://thefrontierpost.com/pide-research-highlights-significance-of-inter-ethnic-marriages-in-pakistan/

Islamabad Post

https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-basics-note-8-language-homogamy-an-insight-into-marriage-and-language-in-pakistan/

Urdu Point

https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pide-research-highlights-significance-of-inte-1714653.html

PIDE NOTES 8 – Print Media Coverage



June 26, 2023

Inter-ethnic marriages' significance highlighted

Bureau report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) new research has highlighted the significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan.

The research findings from the PIDE BASICS I survey indicate that such marriages play a crucial role in ogamous parents exhibited a promoting assimilation, social cohesion, and stability, thereby blurring tensions arising from ethnic differences, said a press release here on Sunday.

Language, closely tied to ethnic background, has a profound impact on personal identities, which can sometimes be divisive and undermine unity within the larger identity, it added.

new approach to measure ethnic exogamy and homogamy by asking respondents three questions related to the ethnic backgrounds of their parents and the language spoken in their every-

day lives.

The results revealed that only a small proportion (1.5%) of marriages in Pakistan are ethnically exogamous, indicating a strong trend of intra-ethnic marriages. However, slight variations exist among different languages, with Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, and Brushaski showing slightly higher rates of exogamy. Additionally, gender differences were observed in languages such as

Urdu, Shina, and Kashmiri.

The study examined the language preferences of children in families with different ethnic backgrounds and found that when parents share the same ethnicity, 92.3 per cent of children spoke the same language as their

However, children of exmixed pattern, with some languages influenced more by the mother's language and others by the father's language. The findings shed light on the role of inter-ethnic marriages and language dynamics in Pakistan's social fabric. The latest research findings revealed that to capture the prevalence of ethnic exogamy, or homogamy, in Pakistan, the PIDE BASICS I The survey employed a survey asked questions in a new way to give a better insight into the issue.

> In most surveys, language is captured by asking the respondents about the language they speak, and the response to this question is taken as representing their ethnic background.

But the question is misleading, and the results of the BASICS survey confirm this distortion in interpretation The findings of the study revealed that only 1.5 per cent of the marriages in Pakistan are ethnically exogamous.

Ethnic exogamy is more prevalent in urban Pakistan (1.9%) than in rural but only by a very small margin," the

release said



PIDE research highlights significance of inter-ethnic riages in Pakistan

TIMES REPORT

the significance of and homogamy by study also examined Institute assimilation, social of cohesion, and stabili- Pakistan are ethnically However, children of lence ty, thereby blurring exogamous, indicat- exogamous parents exogamy, tensions arising from ing a strong trend of exhibited a mixed pat-homogamy, said a press release riages. to ethnic background, guages, with Urdu, by the father's lan-insight on personal identities, Brushaski showing shed light on the role veys.

of larger identity.The differences marriages

PESHAWAR: Pakistan mine unity within the Additionally, gender dynamics in their

which can sometimes slightly higher rates of of inter-ethnic marbe divisive and under- e x o g a m y . riages and language were Pakistan's social fab-Development survey employed a observed in languages ric. According to a Economics (PIDE) new new approach to mea- such as Urdu, Shina, press release issued research highlighted sure ethnic exogamy and Kashmiri. The from the Pakistan inter-ethnic marriages asking respondents the language prefer- Development in Pakistan, a country three questions relat- ences of children in Economics (PIDE), Pro with a diverse ethnic ed to the ethnic back- families with different Vice-Chancellor Dr. spectrum. The grounds of their par-ethnic backgrounds Durre Nayab said research findings from ents and the language and found that when while describing the the PIDE BASICS 1 sur- spoken in their every- parents share the details of the PIDE vey indicate that such day lives. The results same ethnicity, 92.3% BASICS Notes 8 that marriages play a cru-revealed that only a of children spoke the the latest research cial role in promoting small proportion (1.5%) same language as findings revealed that parents, to capture the prevaor ethnic differences, intra-ethnic mar- tern, with some lan- Pakistan, the PIDE However, guages influenced BASICS 1 survey asked Sunday, slight variations exist more by the mother's questions in a new Language, closely tied among different lan- language and others way to give a better has a profound impact Potohari, Brahui, and guage. These findings issue.In most sur-



An Insight into Marriage and Language in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

be divisive and undermine unity within the larger identity. The es play a crucial role in promotsurvey indicate that such marriagparents and the language spoken survey employed a new approach a profound impact on personal tied to ethnic background, has sion, and stability, thereby bluring assimilation, social cohefindings from the PIDE BASICS 1 ethnic spectrum. The research research highlighted the signifidifferences. Language, closely ring tensions arising from ethnic dentities, which can sometimes

by the mother's language and languages influenced more ed a mixed pattern, with some examined the language prefer-ences of children in families with languages such as Urdu, Shina, and Kashmiri. The study also exogamy. Additionally, gender showing slightly higher rates of different languages, with Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, and Brushaski er, slight variations exist among intra-ethnic marriages. Howevstan are ethnically exogamous, language dynamics in Pakistan's indicating a strong trend of social fabric. tion (1.5%) of marriages in Pakiin their everyday lives. The results others by the father's language, revealed that only a small propor- These findings shed light on the dren spoke the same language as the same ethnicity, 92.3% of chilfound that when parents share different ethnic backgrounds and differences were observed in

role of inter-ethnic marriages and

is misleading, and the results of their ethnic background. This issue. In most surveys, language asked questions in a new way exogamy, or homogamy, in Paki-stan, the PIDE BASICS 1 survey capture the prevalence of ethnic research findings revealed that to describing the details of the PIDE BASICS Notes 8 that the latest tute of Development Economissued from the Pakistan Instiquestion is taken as representing is captured by asking the responto give a better insight into the lor Dr. Durre Nayab said while ics (PIDE), Pro Vice-Chancel-According to a press release



distortion in interpretation. the BASICS survey confirm this

Pakistan, as both spouses have cross-ethnic marriages occur in that only a small proportion of that by asking the three quesby the PIDE, Dr. Nayab added According to the latest research

the same mother tongue. A huge 98.5% of the respondents had parents who were linguistically

that In case of ethnic differencthe language spoken by their about do individuals tend to speak parents?, the research revealed PIDE Pro VC said while talking

ethnically similar parents, 92.3% dren speak the language spoken by the mother or the father, or do in the case of individuals having can be seen in the findings that they opt for a third language? The PIDE BASICS survey asked these es between spouses, do their chil-

> speaking the same language. were found to have lower rates of hari (68.4%), Pahari (76%), and Hindko (82.3%) speaking parents children of homogamous Poto-Among other main languages, tu (98%), and Balochi (95.5%). as against Sindhi (98.4%), Pashtheir parents' language (86.4%). had the lowest rate of speaking spoke the same language as their parents.; Among the major

nant among the offspring, like Brushaski, Hindko, Balochi, and and Pahari, while for others, the language seems to have a stron-For some languages, the mother's mixed pattern across languages ly exogamous parents exhibit a While children of ethnical-

Pakistan DBSERVER

June 26, 2023

Significance of inter-ethnic marriages highlighted

STAFF REPORTER

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divisive and undermine

Additionally, unity within the larger der differences were new research identity. The survey em- observed in languages of Pakistan Institute of ployed a new approach such as Urdu, Shina, and Development Economics to measure ethnic ex- Kashmiri. The study also (PIDE) has highlight- ogamy and homogamy examined the language ed the significance of by asking respondents preferences of children inter-ethnic marriages three questions relat- in families with different in Pakistan, a country ed to the ethnic back- ethnic backgrounds and with a diverse ethnic grounds of their parents found that when parents spectrum. Such mar- and the language spoken share the same ethnicity, riages play a crucial role in their everyday lives. 92.3% of children spoke in promoting assimi- The results revealed the same language as lation, social cohesion, that only a small pro- their parents. Howevand stability, thereby portion (1.5%) of mar- er, children of exogablurring tensions arising riages in Pakistan are mous parents exhibited from ethnic differences, ethnically exogamous, a mixed pattern, with the research findings indicating a strong trend some languages influfrom the PIDE BASICS of intra-ethnic marriag- enced more by the moth-1 survey indicated. The es. However, slight var- er's language and others survey revealed that iations exist among dif- by the father's language. language, closely tied ferent languages, with These findings shed light to ethnic background, Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, on the role of inter-ethhas a profound impact and Brushaski showing nic marriages and lanon personal identities, slightly higher rates of guage dynamics in Pakistan's social fabric.



Intra-ethnic marriage trend very strong in Pakistan: PIDE survey

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI ISLAMABAD

The trend for intra-ethnic marriage is very strong in Pakistan as only 1.5% of the marriages in Pakistan are ethnically exogamous, while a huge 98.5% are linguistically homogeneous.

PIDE BASICS Note 8: Language Homogamy - An Insight into Marriage and Language in Pakistan research survey carried by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) highlighted the significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan, a country with a diverse ethnic spectrum.

The research findings indicate that such marriages play a crucial role in promoting assimilation, social cohesion, and stability, thereby blurring tensions arising from ethnic differences. Language, closely tied to ethnic background, has a profound impact on personal identities, which can sometimes be divisive and undermine unity within the larger identity. The survey employed a new approach to measure ethnic exogamy and homogamy by asking respondents three questions related to the ethnic backgrounds of their parents and the language spoken in their every-

The results revealed that only a small proportion (1.5%) of marriages in Pakistan are ethnically exogamous, indicating a strong trend of intra-ethnic marriages. However, slight variations exist among different languages, with Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, and Brushaski showing slightly higher rates of exogamy. Additionally, gender differences were observed in languages such as Urdu, Shina, and Kashmiri. The study also examined the language preferences of children in families with different ethnic backgrounds and found that when parents share the same ethnicity. 92.3% of children spoke the same language as their parents. However, children of exogamous parents exhibited a mixed pattern, with some languages influenced more by the mother's language and others by the father's language. These findings shed light on the role of inter-ethnic marriages and language dynamics in Pakistan's social fabric.

The PIDE survey asked three questions to gauge the ethnic backgrounds of the respondents and the language 'What is the mother tongue of your father?" to determine the ethnic back- Urdu, Shina, and Kashmiri.

ground of the respondent's father; What is the mother tongue of your mother?' to determine the ethnic background of the respondent's mother; and 'What is the language you use in your everyday life?' to capture the language of communication used by the respondent.

As per the finding only a small proportion of cross-ethnic marriages occur in Pakistan, as both spouses have the same mother tongue. A huge 98.5% of the respondents had parents who were linguistically homogeneous.

Looking at the trends of language homogamy and exogamy by region, province, age, education, and income, we see in the findings of the study that only 1.5% of the marriages in Pakistan are ethnically exogamous. Ethnic exogamy is more prevalent in urban Pakistan (1.9%) than in rural but only by a very small margin. Among the provinces, Balochistan shows the highest proportion of language exogamy (4.1%), and Punjab is the lowest (0.9%).

Looking at the three territories, shows that GB (4%) and AJK (4.1%) show more marital assimilation than ICT (0.8%). Age disaggregated trend shows no major change in language homogamy/exogamy. A slightly increasing trend for ethnic exogamy is observed with increasing education and income levels, with secondary schooling and third income quintile, respectively.

The survey revealed that Marriage is among the most important social institutions in the country, if not the most, with very specific gender norms and values linked to it. As we saw above, the trend for intra-ethnic marriage is very strong in Pakistan, but is it the same for people of all languages? The research suggests it is not so, even if by slight

The figure shows that, albeit low levels of exogamy for all languages: There are some languages for which the rates of exogamy are slightly higher, for instance, Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, spoken by them. The questions were: and Brushaski. And gender differences can be seen in some languages, such as



PIDE research highlights significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan

T M Report

PESHAWAR: marriages nic a diverse ethnic spectrum.

The research findings Kashmiri. from the PIDE BASICS release here on Sunday.

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tra-ethnic marriages.

However, slight vari-Pakistan Institute of ations exist among dif-Development ferent languages, with Economics (PIDE) new Urdu, Potohari, Brahui, research highlighted the and Brushaski showing significance of inter-eth- slightly higher rates of in exogamy. Additionally, Pakistan, a country with gender differences were observed in languages such as Urdu, Shina, and

The study also exam-1 survey indicate that ined the language prefsuch marriages play a erences of children in crucial role in promoting families with different assimilation, social co- ethnic backgrounds and hesion, and stability, found that when parents thereby blurring ten- share the same ethnicity, sions arising from ethnic 92.3% of children spoke differences, said a press the same language as their parents.

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PIDE research highlights significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan

MT REPORT

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PIDE research highlights significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan

P OUR CORRESPONDENT PESHAWAR

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PIDE research highlights significance of inter-ethnic marriages in Pakistan

F.P. Report

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