

MEDIA COVERAGE



PIDE Seminar on PPHS Survey

October 09, 2025

Dawn

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1947525/only-one-in-five-families-eat-desired-meals-reveals-pide-survey>

The News International

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=437465>

Tribune Express

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2571578/survey-reveals-gaps-in-learning>

Business Recorder

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40386567/household-survey-pide-unveils-key-findings>

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/amp/40386567>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pakistan-survey-only-1-in-5-families-can-eat-their-desired-meals/>

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Pakistan Today

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/10/09/pakistans-poverty-rate-at-30-5-rural-poverty-at-36-6-first-digital-panel-survey-reveals-key-insights/>

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PhoneWorld

<https://www.phoneworld.com.pk/pakistans-first-digital-panel-survey-results-revealed-progress-or-persistent-poverty/>

Bloom Pakistan

<https://bloompakistan.com/30-of-pakistani-families-sometimes-miss-three-meals-a-day-survey/>

Inflation identified as most severe shock impacting livelihoods

Rasheed Khalid
Islamabad

Dr Shujaat Farooq, Dean, Research, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), has said that 76 per cent of the households surveyed in 2010 were successfully re-tracked in 2024, an exceptional achievement in longitudinal research.

Dr Farooq was addressing a seminar on "Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS): key insights and implications for policymaking" unveiling findings from "PPHS 2024" conducted here by PIDE in collaboration with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

PPHS expanded from 16 to 30 districts, including major urban centres such as Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad and Peshawar. The 2024 round covers 8,621 households nationwide.

The 2024 wave also introduced several new research modules, including learning poverty, care work, disability, financial literacy and a detailed child well-being and parenting section along with modernised consumption categories such as "eating out."

Education data from PPHS 2024 revealed both progress and persistent challenges. While literacy rates improved, 34 per cent of Grade 3-8 students still cannot solve Grade-2 level division problems, highlighting severe learning poverty. Affordability remains a key barrier, with 71 per cent of parents citing financial constraints as the main reason for school dropout. Middle- and matric-level dropout rates stand at 34 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, underscoring significant in-

equalities in learning outcomes.

Labour market data showed mixed trends. Male labour force participation slightly declined from 80 per cent to 78 per cent, while female participation increased modestly from 23.7 per cent to 26.9 per cent over 14 years. Despite the small gain, women remain concentrated in agriculture and informal jobs with limited access to higher-value sectors. Occupational mobility also stagnated, as the shift from blue- to white-collar work remains minimal.

In terms of intergenerational mobility, the findings are encouraging. University graduates now make up 9 per cent of the younger generation compared to only 1 per cent of their fathers showing progress in educational attainment. Ownership of in-

herited parental homes increased from 58 per cent to 81 per cent, and half of surveyed families (50 per cent) perceive themselves as financially better off than their parents.

On the health front, the survey highlights major progress. Antenatal care coverage increased by 28.5 percentage points since 2001, reaching 80.9 per cent, while skilled birth attendance rose by 60.5 points to 88.5 per cent. Home births dropped sharply to 11.6 per cent — a decline of 57.5 points — and TT vaccination coverage reached 72.3 per cent, marking a 35-point improvement. However, regional disparities persist, particularly in Balochistan, where access to maternal healthcare remains limited.

Child malnutrition trends show improvement, with stunting declining from 60 to

43 per cent and underweight children dropping from 50 to 33 per cent, although wasting increased slightly. Food insecurity, however, remained widespread. Only 19.5 per cent of households can always afford desired meals, while 30 per cent sometimes go without three meals a day. Inflation was identified by more than 60 per cent of households as the most severe shock impacting their livelihoods.

According to survey, Pakistan's poverty rate stands at 30.5 per cent, 36.6 per cent in rural areas and 17.8 per cent in urban areas. Rural poverty declined from 46.1 to 37.5 per cent, and urban poverty from 41.0 to 23.4 per cent, yet income inequality widened, with upper-income groups' consumption rising faster than that of lower-income panel households.

Pakistan's First Digital Panel Survey Reveals

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) unveiled landmark findings from the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024—the country's only long-term, nationally representative household survey tracking economic and social change for more than two decades. The evidence-packed seminar titled "Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS): Key Insights and Implications for Policymaking" featured Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Dean of Research at PIDE, and was moderated by Dr. Karim Khan, Dean Academics at PIDE.

Dr. Farooq announced that 76 percent of the households surveyed in 2010 were successfully re-tracked in 2024, an exceptional achievement in longitudinal research. Supported by RASTA-DDR and conducted

in collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the PPHS expanded from 16 to 30 districts, now including major urban centres such as Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Peshawar. The 2024 round covers 8,621 households nationwide and is the first fully digital survey, conducted via tablets for real-time monitoring and improved data quality.

The 2024 wave also introduced several new research modules, including learning poverty, care work, disability, financial literacy, and a detailed child well-being and parenting section, along with modernized consumption categories such as "eating out." Education data from PPHS 2024 reveal both progress and persistent challenges. While literacy rates have improved, 34 percent of Grade 3-8 students still cannot solve Grade-2 level division problems, highlighting

severe learning poverty. Affordability remains a key barrier, with 71 percent of parents citing financial constraints as the main reason for school dropout. Middle- and matric-level dropout rates stand at 34 percent and 21 percent, respectively, underscoring significant inequalities in learning outcomes.

On the health front, the survey highlights major progress. Antenatal care coverage has increased by 28.5 percentage points since 2001, reaching 80.9 percent, while skilled birth attendance rose by 69.5 points to 88.5 percent. Home births have dropped sharply to 11.6 percent—a decline of 57.5 points—and TT vaccination coverage reached 72.3 percent, marking a 35-point improvement. However, regional disparities persist, particularly in Balochistan, where access to maternal healthcare remains limited. Child malnutrition trends

show improvement, with stunting declining from 60 to 43 percent and underweight children dropping from 50 to 33 percent, although wasting increased slightly. Food insecurity, however, remains widespread. Only 19.5 percent of households can always afford desired meals, while 30 percent sometimes go without three meals a day. Inflation was identified by more than 60 percent of households as the most severe shock impacting their livelihoods.

The PPHS also paints a nuanced picture of poverty and inequality. Using the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method, Pakistan's poverty rate stands at 30.5 percent, 36.6 percent in rural areas and 17.8 percent in urban areas. Rural poverty has declined from 46.1 to 37.5 percent, and urban poverty from 41.0 to 23.4 percent, yet income inequality has widened, with upper-income

groups' consumption rising faster than that of lower-income panel households. Analysis indicates that, with better inflation control, the poverty rate could have been lower by around seven percentage points.

Social protection coverage has improved significantly. Around 22 to 23 percent of households now benefit from programs such as BISP and Zakat, up from 10 percent in 2010, while 10 to 11 percent have access to microfinance networks. Additionally, around 60 percent of households report engaging in charitable giving, though mostly through informal channels.

Moderator Dr. Karim Khan commended the study's methodological rigor, emphasizing that its precise tracking of households and split families makes PPHS an invaluable source for policy analysis. He noted that the findings directly inform inclusive social



and economic policy design.

The seminar concluded with policy priorities centered on reducing learning poverty, expanding women's economic participation, strengthening social protection systems, improving job quality, and investing in child well-being infrastructure such as playgrounds, libraries, and safe study spaces.

PIDE announced that the PPHS 2024 microdata will soon be made publicly available to researchers and students, along-

side a 15-chapter, 200-page technical report prepared by RASTA. Dr. Farooq expressed optimism that this dataset will support "dozens of PhD theses and policy papers," contributing to Pakistan's evidence-based policy ecosystem.

As Pakistan's leading think tank, PIDE, through its RASTA program in collaboration with the Planning Commission, continues to promote rigorous, data-driven research that shapes the country's development and inclusive growth agenda.

DAWN

October 09, 2025

Only one in five families eat desired meals: survey

ISLAMABAD: Food insecurity remains widespread in Pakistan as only 19.5pc of households can always afford desired meals, while 30pc sometimes go without three meals a day.

These are the findings from the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024, the country's only long-term, nationally representative household survey tracking economic and social change for more than two decades, conducted by the country's renowned think-tank Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and unveiled at a seminar titled "PPHS: Key Insights and Implications for Policymaking", according to a press release here on Wednesday.

The event featured Dean of Research (PIDE) Dr Shujaat Farooq and was moderated by Dean Academics (PIDE) Dr Karim Khan.

Dr Farooq announced that 76 per cent of the households surveyed in 2010 were successfully re-tracked in 2024, an exceptional achievement in longitudinal research.

Supported by RASTA-DDR and conducted in collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the PPHS expanded from 15 to 30 districts, now including major urban centres such as Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Peshawar. The 2024 round covers 8,621 households nationwide and is the first fully digital survey, conducted via tablets for real-time monitoring and improved data quality.

Inflation was identified by more than 60pc of households as the most severe shock impacting their livelihoods. Education data from PPHS 2024 reveals both progress and persistent challenges. While literacy rate has improved, 34pc of Grade 3-8 students still cannot solve Grade-2 level division problems, highlighting severe learning poverty.

Affordability remains a key barrier, with 71pc of parents citing financial constraints as the main reason for school dropout. Middle- and matric-level dropout rates stand at 34pc and 21pc, respectively, underscoring significant inequalities in learning outcomes.

Labour market data shows mixed trends. Male labour force participation slightly declined from 80pc to 78pc, while female participation increased modestly from 23.7pc to 26.9pc over 14 years.

On the health front, the survey highlights major progress. Antenatal care coverage has increased by 28.5 percentage points since 2001, reaching 80.9pc, while skilled birth attendance rose by 69.5 points to 88.5pc. Home births have dropped sharply to 11.6 pc and TT vaccination coverage reached 72.3pc, marking an improvement.

Household survey: PIDE unveils key findings

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on Wednesday unveiled key findings from the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024, marking a significant milestone as the country's only long-term, nationally representative household survey tracking economic and social changes over more than two decades.

The seminar titled "Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) Key Insights and Implications for Policymaking" was held at PIDE, with Dr Shujat Farooq, Dean of Research, presenting the findings. The event was moderated by Dr Karim Khan, Dean Academics.

Dr Farooq reported that 76 percent of households initially surveyed in 2010 were successfully re-tracked in 2024, underscoring

the robustness of this longitudinal research.

Supported by RASTA-DDR and conducted in partnership with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the PPHS expanded its reach from 16 to 30 districts, now covering major urban centres including Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Peshawar. The 2024 round surveyed 8,621 households nationwide and was conducted entirely digitally through tablets, enabling real-time data monitoring and enhanced accuracy.

The latest survey introduced new modules examining learning poverty, care work, disability, financial literacy, and detailed child well-being and parenting, alongside updated consumption categories such as "eating out".

Education data highlighted both

improvements and persistent challenges. While literacy rates have risen, 34 percent of students in grades 3 to 8 were unable to solve division problems at grade 2 level, indicating severe learning deficits.

Financial constraints remain a key reason for school dropout, cited by 71 percent of parents. Dropout rates at middle and matriculation levels stood at 34 percent and 21 percent respectively, reflecting ongoing educational inequalities. Labour market statistics showed mixed trends.

Male labour force participation fell slightly from 80 percent to 79 percent, while female participation increased from 23.7 percent to 26.9 percent over 14 years.

However, women remain largely confined to agriculture and informal sectors, with limited

occupational mobility and minimal shift towards higher-value employment.

The survey revealed some progress in intergenerational mobility. University graduates now comprise 9 percent of the younger generation, compared to just 1 percent of their fathers.

Ownership of inherited homes rose from 59 percent to 81 percent, with half of respondents perceiving themselves as financially better off than their parents.

Health indicators showed notable improvements. Antenatal care coverage rose by 28.5 percentage points since 2001 to 80.9 percent, and skilled birth attendance increased by 69.5 points to 88.5 percent. Home births declined sharply to 11.6 percent.

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erage also improved by 35 points to 72.3 percent. However, regional disparities persist, particularly in Balochistan, where maternal healthcare remains inadequate.

Child malnutrition rates improved, with stunting declining from 68 percent to 43 percent and underweight children dropping from 50 percent to 33 percent, although wasting showed a slight increase. Food insecurity remains widespread: only 19.5 percent of households can always afford desired meals, while 30 percent sometimes skip three meals a day. Over 60 percent of households identified inflation as the biggest shock to their livelihoods.

The survey's poverty analysis using the Cost of Basic Needs method puts the national poverty rate at 30.5 percent, with rural

poverty at 36.6 percent and urban poverty at 17.8 percent. Rural poverty has declined from 46.1 percent to 37.5 percent, and urban poverty from 41.0 percent to 23.4 percent.

Yet income inequality has widened, as consumption by higher-income groups rose faster than that of poorer households. The report suggests that better inflation control could have reduced poverty by about seven percentage points.

Social protection coverage also expanded. Between 22 percent and 23 percent of households now receive support from programmes like Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Zakat, up from 10 percent in 2010, and around 10 percent to 11 percent access microfinance. Additionally, some 60 percent of households

report charitable giving, primarily through informal channels.

Dr Karim Khan lauded the survey's methodological rigor and its precise tracking of households, including split families, calling PPHS a valuable resource for policymaking aimed at social and economic inclusion. The seminar concluded with identified policy priorities: reducing learning poverty, expanding women's labour participation, strengthening social protection, improving job quality, and investing in child well-being infrastructure such as playgrounds and libraries. PIDE announced that the PPHS 2024 micro data and a detailed technical report will be released soon to support further research and evidence-based policy formulation.—TAHRA AMIN