

Brief  
Population Growth: Implications for Human Development  
November 5, 2019 (Tuesday), 11:00 A.M. till 01: 00 P.M.  
Venue: A. R. Kemal Conference Room, PIDE

Panelists: Dr. Zeba Sathar, Dr. G. M. Arif and Dr. Durr e Nayab

The panel discussion focused on framing and institutionalizing a holistic approach driven by provincial and national support for human development which should effectively translate into poverty reduction and controlled population growth. It was also highlighted by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque (VC, PIDE) that despite all the academic research that has been conducted on the subject matter, the key determinants of population growth have not been outlined in a comprehensive fashion. It was unanimously declared by the panelists that framing a reflexive policy embedded in the social reality of Pakistan's population growth is critically essential. To achieve that, the need of the hour is to acknowledge that population paradigm of Pakistan will not change without innovation and out-of-box research. Another feature that was emphasized upon by the panelists was the conceptual and pragmatic articulations between population control and human development with either one factor affecting the other or both having mutual causations on each other contemporaneously. The important issues related to population growth in Pakistan as identified by the panelists were food shortages, lack of public-private intersection, and lack of incentives on governmental and state levels. The inclusive approach as discussed above must bring in stakeholders from diverse backgrounds such as academics, medical professionals, civil society, and religious scholars for ensuring either human development for controlling population growth or vice versa. The important takeaways of the discussion were that the focus should be on targeted groups on the part of government and academics. In addition, government should also focus on advocacy campaigns for dissemination of information to the targeted groups.