

Editorial

Greeting from PIDE P&R

Wishing you all a very happy international women month. The half of the population of Pakistan is comprising of women who are responsible for the development and growth of the other half making it a developed, healthy and strong society. We have been always hearing about the half and half ratio of men and women and wishing to provide a factual figure given by the Government of Pakistan. The census after a long gap finally happened in 2017 which is a good step but the final official results aren't out yet. It isn't to bring in the negative aspect but to put forward a suggestion to do the next census soon and the results should be made official too in good time and free of controversy. It gets difficult for the researchers to base their researches on redundant information when it comes to demographic analysis.

The realization of demographic dividend requires good information and effective policy making. Any laxity can only lead to demographic burden. Pakistan is still struggling to achieve it, and is lagging behind the regional peers. In order to achieve the demographic dividend, we need awareness campaigns to guide the society about its advantages. In order to reach the demographic dividend, population forecasting, education and appropriate skill formation are important. The market needs to be ready to employ the youngsters with proper career and succession planning. When it comes to manage policies and programmes, one cannot stress enough the the education of girls. The population planning should focus on birth prevention as well as its positive influence on the health of the society, economic growth and human development.

Pakistan was the first among the developing countries that started effective population planning. As in many other areas, the country lost its way in this crucial area as well. The current issue of P&R is an attempt to regain the lost momentum. A youthful population provides a great opportunity to launch a rapid growth strategy to realise the full potential. The contributions analyse the past, set new directions, identify policies that don't work and suggest future course of action. Areas of further research are indicated for learning to avoid jumping into blind alleys. Interviews with knowledgeable women experts enhance the richness of the discourse.

Happy Reading!
Do let us know your take.