Defusing the Population Bomb: Human Capital Population Projection of Pakistan at regional levels

Introduction

Although Pakistani government has emphasized to cope with mounting population growth, for the successful development of Pakistan in the present and future, progress realized at all levels have been meagre and this for three main reasons:

- lack of commitment to the population policy goals and unsuccessful implementation,
- Rapid growing of the school age population and
- Growing working age population due to population momentum and facing demographic dividend.

Low level of educational attainment

Objectives and Approach to Human capital population projection:

- This study explores the development of human capital in the future, at national and provincial level in Pakistan.
- It will assess the potential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Pakistan, especially universal primary education and how realistic are national goals on educational attainment. Will Pakistan achieved these goals on time? If not when.
- It will analyze whether national fertility target of will achieved by 2030.
- It will look at how women’s education can influence fertility and limit population growth.
- It will produce population projections at provincial level for Pakistan which do not currently exist.

The multistate cohort component population projection methodology were used for the projection of the population at national and provincial levels by levels of educational attainment.

Scenario ID Card:

- Total fertility rate with different assumption of fertility and education across time in Pakistan:
- Note: NG= National Goal, ET= Educational Trends, Eng=National education goals, Ec=Constant

Conclusion:

- The MDGs cannot be achieved if Pakistan follows the path of educational development of the last two decades. The goal of universal access to primary education will not be achieved either at national or provincial levels even by the end of 2050.
- According to the trend scenario, the national educational attainment goals will not be met. Education and fertility are negatively correlated. If educational milestone would be accomplished the fertility rate decline substantially.
- For policymakers, more and better education should become the top priority to empower people that will in turn help in implementing good governance rules and reduce corruption. A concerted effort for increasing enrollment in primary and secondary education appears to be the most promising route for Pakistan out of poverty and toward sustainable development.

References: