

Explore the Reason behind Higher Fertility Rate in rural areas of Pakistan: A case Study of Rural Areas of Dera Ghazi Khan

Muhammad Zeshan Ali, Zara Yasmin, Bilal Hasan, Muneeb Khalid

Abstract— Higher fertility is putting huge pressure on the resources of country and forcing people to living in worse standard of life. Pakistan's high fertility rate is contributing to population growth that is estimated to more than double the population by 2050. This study was based on the objectives to find out the socio-cultural causes of higher fertility rate and economic cause of higher fertility rate in rural area of Dera Ghazi Khan. The researcher conducted this study to find out the socio-cultural and economic causes of higher fertility rate in rural areas of Dera Ghazi Khan. The samples of 200 respondents were selected by purposive sampling techniques from married males and females. Researcher found that more children are considered as support of old age and also societal or community and family pressure is also associated with fertility. The researcher investigated that social causes of high fertility include son preference, early age marriage, lack of knowledge, and unavailability of fertility control measures, labor force and poverty.

Index Terms— Higher fertility, economic causes, early age marriage, lack of knowledge

1. Introduction:

Women in rural Pakistan are also less likely to be educated, another key social determinant of fertility. If a girl enrolls in secondary school and completes her education, she is likely to delay marriage and consequentially delay childbearing; if childbearing is delayed, women will have fewer children. However, only 3.9% of girls in rural Pakistan receive secondary education and 68% receive no education (Pakistan). "Adolescent motherhood is widespread in rural areas among girls with little or no schooling, and among those with low socioeconomic status of those girls who attended 5-9 years of school, only 33% where married before 20 and of those girls who received no education, 68% where married. Marriage in Pakistan is usually immediately followed by pregnancy and, as a result, the average age at first childbirth is very young 21 years (Sultana, 2005).

The fertility rate among women of child bearing in Pakistan in rural areas is very high that is 5.6 birth/women to control the fertility rate first we should determine causes beyond. There are many reasons in rural areas of Pakistan of high fertility rate like biological, social, environmental political factor (Crupain, 2010).

Author 1: Muhammad Zeshan Ali pursuing M.phill sociology degree in PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. **Email:** zeeshanali5422@gmail.com

The institutional factors that typically dire across different societies reasons given for son preference are various and include cultural, kinship, economic and In the Sub-Saharan African context, anthropological and demographic evidence emphasizes the dominant role of males in patrilineal societies in which descent and inheritance are transmitted through the male line. Furthermore, male children strengthen the relationship between the wife and her husband's kin (i.e. by guaranteeing the continuation of his lineage) and secure access to residence and inheritance upon the husband's death (Almond *et al.*, 2009).

The desire for sons is associated with low contraceptive prevalence in rural areas of Pakistan. It has been noted that the value of sons is a key hindrance to follow family planning. There is some evidence of a change in attitude in this regard. Attitudinal change is paramount to re-design the family planning programmed according to the needs of people (Zafar, 2002).

In Pakistan, strong son preference has been noted, because sons are regarded as economic assets and old-age security in rural areas of Pakistan. More recent data from Pakistan further confirms the continued desire for sons. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey in rural areas showed that, of the women with no children, about one-third desired to have a son, while the preference for having a daughter was negligible. Among those who had two daughters and no son, almost all (93) wanted their next child to be a son. However, the incidence of wider neglect of female children or preferential treatment for male children was not evident from the data (Karim, 2000).

The main point here is that for understanding emerging patterns of high fertility in rural areas of Pakistan. It is grossly unscientific to look only at the current levels of fertility, at a time when fertility is falling in all regions and among all communities, at varying rates and in response to different social factors. He makes three points. One: the Muslim population is growing at a faster rate than the Hindu population. Two: the fertility rates among the Muslims are higher than among the Hindus, and this is so irrespective of economic status and education. Finally, the acceptance rate of modern contraceptive practices is lower among the Muslims. We argue that Reddy does not pay adequate attention to how things have been changing and what the changes imply for the future. He

refers to a variety of contemporary and historical evidence to support his thesis (Reddy, 2003).

Causes of high fertility in the rural areas of Pakistan:

Early Marriage:

The early age marriage become the reason of higher fertility rate in the rural areas of Pakistan .The parents wants to marry their children in early age because they wants to continue their descent. Human fertility is determined by all customs, morals and habits of social groups with regard to marital obligations and life .Age at marriage and caste affect fertility. Many demographers who correlate fertility pattern with socio-economic and cultural factors opine that the economic and social development decreases with family size (Gupta, 2011).

Polygamy:

The more than one marriages is also the cause of higher fertility rate because the people are illiterate and increasing the fertility through polygamy. Polygamy may result in a population increase is that it has traditionally been operational in cases where a man of substance and means is allowed multiple wives. This should also mean that child rearing is significantly less costly with multiple wives no babysitters and that women who want to have children will opt for polygamy (Philip, 2011).

Author 2: Bilal Hasan pursuing M.phill sociology degree in PMAS Arid Agriculture UniversitRawalpindi.**Email:**Bilalhassan5649@gmail.com

Author 3: Muneeb Khalid Pursuing M.phill Forestry in PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. **Email:** Muneebkhalid99@yahoo.com)

Old age security:

The important cause of higher fertility rate is old age security. The people want to secure their old age and they wants to more children. Old age security is the cause of higher fertility. They examine the effects of changes in government provided old age pensions on fertility choices in the context of two models of fertility. In the Barro and Becker model parents have children because they perceive their children's lives as a continuation of their own. In the Boldrin and Jones' framework parents procreate because the children care about their old parents' utility, and thus provide them with old age transfers. We find that the direction of the effect on fertility in the Barro and Becker model depends on whether child rearing costs are primarily in goods or in time, but that the size of the effect is always very small (Boldrin et al., 2004).

Son Preference:

The first cause of higher fertility rate in rural areas is son preference. The son is known as economic assets. The son preference inadequately affected on the population of Pakistan. This is the main cause of high fertility in rural areas. The societies with high fertility rate exposed very

less rate of son preference over daughter. But the fertility decline has a linkage of greater demand for son than daughter. In Manipur, a high proportion i.e., 31.2% of married women want more sons than, the factors associated with desire of more sons have caused high fertility indices in the state. Results show that, the age at marriage, education, income, desire number of son, duration of marriage, infant mortality, and significant contribution on the variation of fertility indices. One of the most important determinants of the fertility indices is son preference which is quantified by desire number of son in one way or others. The son preference is most important factor among other socio-demographic determinants of fertility differentials in Manipur. (Nath and Singh, 2012).

Illiteracy:

Literacy rate is very low in rural areas of Pakistan .Due to illiteracy people not know about the future problems and they cannot socialize their children as well as possible. So the illiterate people increase the fertility. Illiteracy is the cause of fertility.

Women's education is the most important factor explaining fertility differences across the country and over time. Low levels of child mortality and son preferences also contribute to lower fertility. By contrast, general indicators of modernization and development such as urbanization, poverty reduction and male literacy bear no significant association with fertility. En passant, we probe a subject of much confusion, the relation between fertility decline and gender bias (United Nation, 2000).

Unavailability of family planning centers in rural areas:

It is also the major cause of the higher fertility rate the un-availability of family planning canters. The family planning centers are not available in the rural areas.

Access to public health services may also have a role to play in reducing fertility, independently of education and income. Aside from direct effects through improved access to contraception, public health services may reduce fertility by enhancing child survival. However, these effects may be small where services are of poor quality, as applies in much of north India. Moreover, services delivered through heavy-handed methods may prove counterproductive; as India's sobering experience with compulsory sterilization illustrates (Bhargava, 2000).

Poverty:

People wants to reduce their poverty to have more children the people of rural areas feels more children means more bread earners. Poverty, as a general rule in culture produces individuals who lack education, self-control and self-discipline. People in poverty, who start to exemplify education and self-discipline, usually exit poverty by default. Poor people usually keep having more children because they lack the

virtue of sexual self-control and/or common sense/money to use birth control. Plus unprotected sex is free until pregnancy occurs. When your priority is study and work, you will have less children. Nature gives us sexual pleasure to make us want to reproduce. Whoever acts according to sexual appetite is most likely to continue the human race. Nature tends to select for sexual urges so the species can last for millions of years. In human society person who controls sexual desire, study, and work hard will be rich and person who does more sex, less study, and less work will be poor. Thus poor people have more children (Jordon, 2009).

Methodology:

Universe / population:

The universe for the present study comprised of all married male and female of rural areas (Drahma, Samina, Ladan and KotlaShafi Muhammad) of Dera Ghazi Khan in 2014.

Author 4: Zara Yasmin pursuing M.phill Sociology Degree in PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. **Email:** zaracheema11@gmail.com

Sample:

For the present study purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. The sample of 200 respondents was selected through purposive sampling technique.

Instrument for Data Collection:

After selecting the sample, the next step is to select the appropriate research technique for data collection. For the present study, the researcher has collected the data from respondents through interview schedule.

Hypothesis:

A hypothesis is a proposed explanation for an observable phenomenon. For a hypothesis to be put forward as a scientific hypothesis, the scientific method requires that one can test it. For the present research, hypotheses are:

“Greater the old age security, greater will be fertility”

“Greater the social pressure, greater will be fertility”

Pretesting:

Pretesting was done to examine the validity of interview schedule by interviewing twenty respondents. After pretesting, one response category was changed, one more question was added.

Data processing:

Data processing is link between data collection and data analysis. It involves the transformation of the observation gathered in the field into system of categories and translation of these categories into codes amenable to quantitative analysis. Percentages were worked out in simple and cross tables for the purpose of making comparisons.

Percentage:

Cross tabulation were made and interpreted with help of percentage in order to see the relationship among various variables. The formulas for calculating the percentage is given below.

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100$$

Where

P=Percentage

F=Frequency of the class

N=Total Frequency

Chi-Square:

Chi-Square test was applied to examine relationship between independent and dependent variables, χ^2 were computed using the following formula.

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum (f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

f_o = Observed value

f_e = Expected value

Σ = Total sum (sigma)

Result

Major Findings:

1. Majority of the respondents 91.0 percent said that son preference promotes higher fertility.
2. Majority of the respondents 85.0 percent viewed that continuity of descent was responsible for higher fertility.
3. Majority of the respondents 73.0 percent expressed that social pressure was responsible for higher fertility.
4. Majority of the respondents 95.0 percent narrated that higher fertility was the choice of husbands.
5. Majority of the respondents 98.0 percent believed that higher fertility was the choice of wives.
6. Majority of the respondents 91.0 percent expressed that early age marriage was responsible for higher fertility.
7. Majority of the respondents 89.0 percent described that more than one marriage was the cause of higher fertility.
8. Majority of the respondents 66.0 percent viewed that unawareness from fertility control methods was responsible for higher fertility.
9. Majority of the respondents 63.0 percent explained that unavailability of fertility control service was the cause of higher fertility.
10. Majority of the respondent 72.0 percent said that people increase their family size to increase their economic status.
11. Majority of the respondents 76.0 percent explained that people increase their family size in order to increase their social status.
12. Majority of the respondents 71.0 percent expressed that people increase their family size in order to have large labor force to work in fields.
13. Majority of the respondents 87.0 percent explained that old age security was the cause of higher fertility.
14. Majority of the respondents 74.0 percent narrated that people feel secure to have more children.
15. Majority of the respondents 90.0 percent believed that people increase their family size in order to reduce poverty.
16. Majority of the respondent 67.0 percent expressed that culture of rural areas promotes higher fertility.
17. Majority of the respondents 80.0 percent said that higher fertility is associated with being religious.
18. Majority of the respondents 64.0 percent narrated that their family promotes them to have large family size.
19. Majority of the respondents 65.0 percent explained that their relatives pressurize them to have greater number of children.

Conclusion

The whole of the research has revealed the fact that higher fertility is not good for the prosperity of Pakistan. Following points are the conclusion of my research. Higher fertility promoted by early age marriage system. Because early marriages is seen commonly in our country. It is generally in the case of women, maximum numbers of girls are married between 15-18 years. Early marriage prolongs the child bearing period and this leads to high rates of

growth population. Joint family system is spread in all over the Pakistan. In joint family system children are looked after by all the earning members of the family. The system acts a protection against economic hardship. A member may not be in a position to earn something but when he gets married he gets more children. The birth rate as a result of which population increase. Poverty is another factor which is mostly responsible for the rapid growth of population. Pakistan's houses are the museum of poverty. A majority of our country in rural areas are illiterates. When illiteracy is combined with poverty it leads to affirm belief a superstitions, children are considered as the gifts of God. They know nothing about the birth control measures. All those account of a higher birth rate in Pakistan's populations. Son preference is major cause that promotes high fertility in the rural areas of Pakistan. Every person wants to have a male child. Male child considered as an assets for the poor, a dowry earner for the greedy, a life insurance for the middle man and a matter of pride for the mothers. In rural areas the government is not serious about establishing the family planning centers. So, people are not well known about controlling method of fertility.

Acknowledgement:

With the name of Allah Almighty who opens the doors of knowledge for all Human beings then He also provide help to seek knowledge through various priceless resources. First of all we should like to thanks Allah Almighty who gives us courage and strength to complete this research work the greatest provision of mercy. Billions of blessings and mercies on Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) who given us the true light of humanity in the form of religion Islam and make compulsory the seeking of knowledge for every Muslim male and female. Again Thanks to all my Authors who work hard with me.

References

Almond, Douglas, Lena Edlund, and Kevin Milligan. 2009. *Son Preference and the Persistence of Culture: Evidence from Asian Immigrants to Canada.* NBER Working Paper No. 15391. Article Retrieved from <http://paa2014.princeton.edu/papers/142884>. Dated: 26 February, 2014.

Bhargava, Alok. 2000. *Family Planning, Gender Differences and Infant Mortality: Evidence from Uttar Pradesh (India)*, mimeo, Department of Economics, University of Houston. Article Retrieved from the following link <http://www.histecon.magd.cam.ac.uk/docs/female.pdf>. Dated: 15 March, 2014.

Boldrin, M., Nardi, M.D. and Jones, L.E. 2004. *Fertility and Social Security.* Univ. of Minnesota, Fed. Res. Bank of Mpls, and NBER. Pp: 2-42 http://www.nber.org/~denardim/research/fertility_socsec_draft06.pdf. Dated: 15 March, 2014.

Gupta, M.D. 2011. *Impact of Early Marriage in Fertility among SC, ST and Tea-Tribe Communities of Dibrugarh District, Assam, India: An*

Analysis through Logistic Regression. International Journal of Educational Planning & Administration. Volume 1, pp. 211-215 Retrieved from: http://www.ripublication.com/ijepa/ijepav1n3_3.pdf. Dated: 10 April, 2014.

Jordon, E. 2009. Why do poor people have more children? Article posted on and retrieved at 03 September, 2014 from the following link http://www.answers.com/Q/Why_do_poor_people_have_more_children

Karim. 2000. Changes in Female Roles in Pakistan: Are the Volume and Pace Adequate? *The Pakistan Development Review* 25:3 339–369. Retrieved from: <http://www.pide.org.pk/pdr/index.php/pdr/article/view/1486/1459> dated: 12 May, 2014.

Nath, D.C. and Singh, H. Brojeshwor. 2012. Impact of Son Preference on Fertility Indices in Manipur. *International Journal of Management, Economics and Social Sciences* 2012, Vol. 1(2), Pp. 26-32. Article Retrieved From the following link <http://www.ijmess.com/volumes/volume-1-2012/issue-11-12-2012/full-1.pdf> Dated: 07 July, 2014.

Philip, J. 2011. Polygamy might increase population growth. Article retrieved at 03 August, 2014 from <http://phillips.blogs.com/goc/2011/06/polygamy-might-increase-population-growth.html>

Reddy, P H. 2003. Religion, Population Growth, Fertility and Family Planning Practices in India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, August 16. 2003. Article Retrieved from: <http://www.epw.in/special-articles/religion-population-growth-fertility-and-family-planning-practice-india.html> Dated: 09 August, 2014.

Sultana, Munawar. 2005. A Brief on Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth in Pakistan - Culture of Silence." *The Population Council*, Inc. Article Retrieved from the following link <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2006/YouthinPakistanFourNewPolicyBriefs.aspx> Dated: 15 July, 2014.

United Nation. 2000. Women's Education and Fertility Behavior: A Case Study of Rural Maharashtra (New York: Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, United Nations). Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2003monitoring/WorldPopMonitoring_2002.pdf Dated: 07 August, 2014.

Zafar. 2002. The Fertility of Immigrant Women: Evidence from High Fertility Source Countries, in: Borjas, G. J., Freeman, R. (Eds.), *Immigration and the Workforce: Economic Consequences for the United States and Source Areas*, Chicago: *University of Chicago Press*, 93-133. Retrieved from: <https://files.nyu.edu/rf2/public/Research/eeaperfinal.pdf> Dated: 07 August, 2014

IJSER

IJSER