

Chapter

20

Population and Development

A relatively high growth rate of population constitutes a challenge for the entire development process. The overall vision of the population program is to pursue stabilization of population as a development priority through accelerated fertility transition. The population growth rate has been brought down to about 1.8 percent per annum but the total fertility rate at 3.13 per women (2007) reported by the Ministry of Population Welfare is still above the desired level. Contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is low at 36 percent. Low coverage for family planning services further increases the level of unmet need. A holistic life-cycle approach has been adopted in implementing the national population welfare strategy. Education, health, women empowerment and poverty reduction measures all contribute towards population cause. However, the central role of contraception and reduction in fertility rates are at the heart of our population policy. The MTFD 2005-10 as well as the Annual Plan 2007-08 address all these challenges through appropriate interventions and adequate allocations.

Policy Initiatives

Recognizing the importance of the Population Program the Government is fully committed at the highest level to realize the objectives of the population program envisioned in Vision 2030. The following policy initiatives are worth mentioning:

- ? A “National Population Commission” headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and four Provincial “Population Councils” headed by the respective Chief Ministers are in place.
- ? Reproductive health services including clinical contraception are being extended through well equipped mobile service units (MSUs) to the underserved areas. Centres providing clinical services are being established at Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals.
- ? Lady Health Workers are involved for creating awareness of clinical methods of contraceptives. They have now been trained for administering injectables, thus providing in site services at the household level.
- ? The provincial health and population welfare departments will link the Lady Health Workers with the Family Welfare Centres (FWCs).
- ? Communication strategies at federal and provincial levels including advocacy through interpersonal communication (IPC) are being reinforced.
- ? The MTFD (2005-10) ensures government funding to the private sector for extending reproductive health including family planning services to the rural areas. Social marketing and private-public partnerships are being adopted.

Strategy

For achieving the envisioned long-term objective of attaining replacement level of fertility by 2020 or achieving the MDGs (target) by 2015 the Population Welfare Program focuses on the following:

- ? Population is declared as cross cutting issue for all sectors of the economy.
- ? The NATPOW is being revived to strengthen the public-private partnership and the involvement of NGOs.
- ? The Departments of Health will ensure delivery of family planning services through all its service outlets as a regular activity.
- ? Lady Health Workers (LHWs) will become a strong linkage between community and service providers.

Review of Demographic Indicators 2006-07

Some of the selected demographic indicators for the periods 2006 and 2007 are reflected in the Table 20.1.

Table 20.1
Selected Demographic Indicators

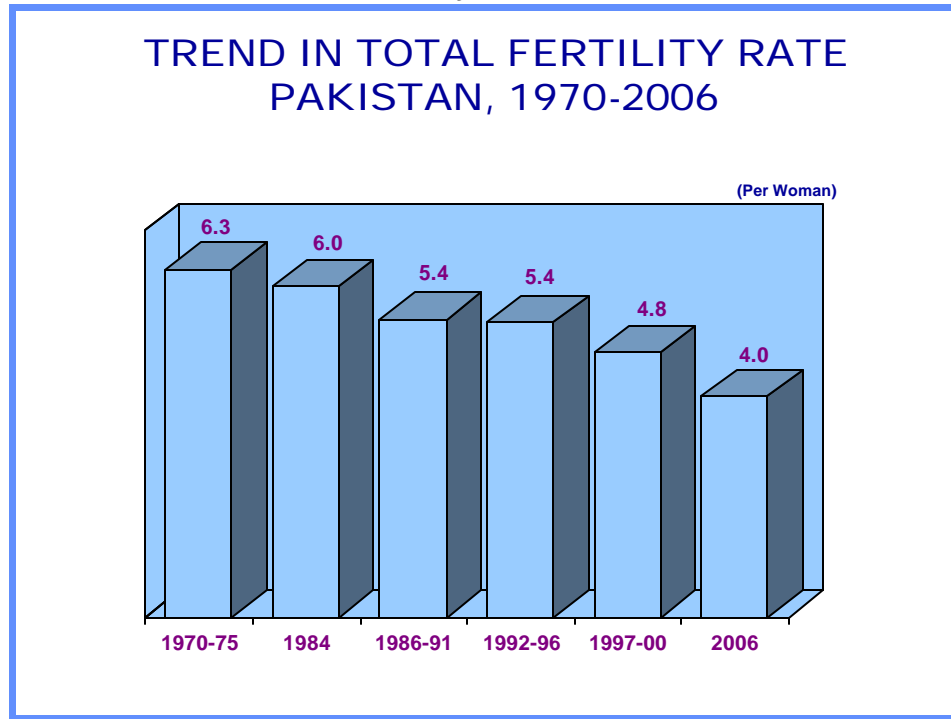
Indicators	2006 (1 st July)	2007 (1 st July)	Increase / Decrease (+/-)
Total Population (million)	156.26	159.26	2.8
Urban Population (million)	53.85	55.48	1.63
Rural Population (million)	102.41	103.58	1.17
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.28	3.13	-0.15
Crude Birth Rate (per thousand)	26.1	25.5	-0.6
Crude Death Rate (per thousand)	8.2	7.9	-0.3
Population Growth Rate (percent)	1.8	1.78	-0.02
Life Expectancy (years)	63.8	64.3	0.5
a. Male	63.9	64.3	0.4
b. Female	63.8	64.4	0.6

Source: National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS)

The projected demographic indicators reflect improvement in life-expectancy and fall in population growth rate. However, a more rapid decline in total fertility rates will remain a continuing challenge for the future.

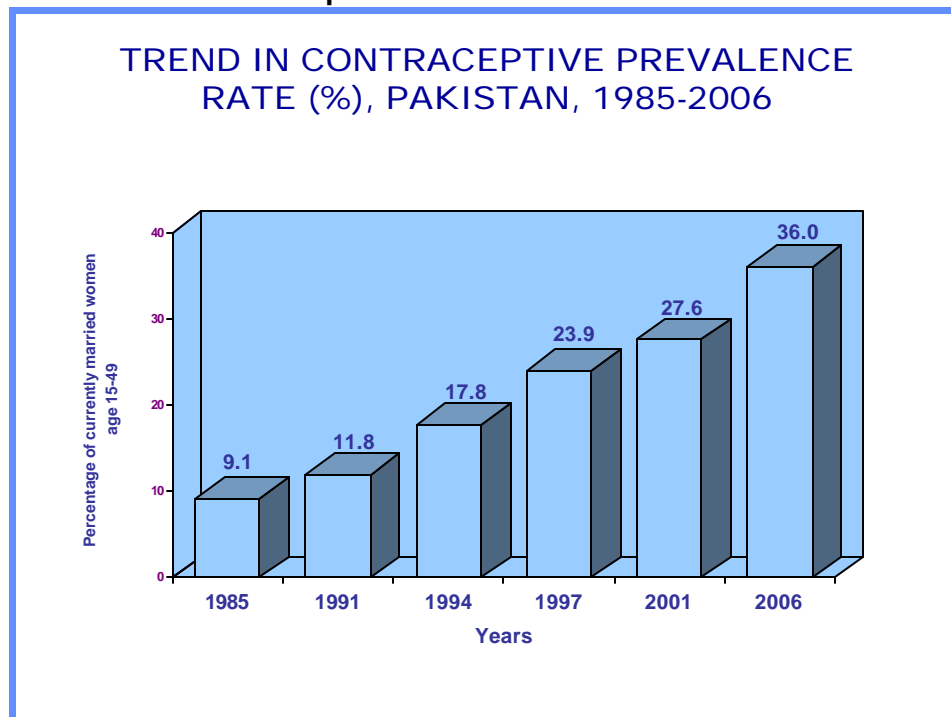
The trends of both fertility and contraceptive progress rate over longer time perspective is reflected in figures 20.1 and 20.2.

Figure 20.1
Total Fertility Rate 1970-2006



Source: National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS)

Figure 20.2
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate 1985-2006



Source: National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS)

Review of Financial Performance 2006-07

During the FY 2006-07 an amount of Rs 4.37 billion including Rs 293.0 million as foreign loan was allocated to 27 projects and programs in the population sector. The Ministry and Departments of Population Welfare are estimated to utilize an amount of Rs 3.2 billion by the close of June, 2007. The net utilization is likely to improve by Rs 178 million over the last year's actual utilization of Rs 3.02 billion.

Physical Achievements 2006-07

The Population Welfare Program has established 3038 service outlets which include a) 2600 Family Welfare Centres (FWCs); b) 152 Reproductive Health Service - A (RHS-A) centres; and c) 286 Mobile Service Units (MSUs). The target of MSUs set for the period 2003-08 has been fully achieved. The progress in establishment of FWCs is encouraging. However, in the case of establishment of RHS-A centres particularly at Tehsil Headquarter level hospitals (THQ) level the performance needs to be geared up.

Contraceptive Performance

The contraceptive performance figures of the program indicate an estimated 3.2 million users upto March 2007. Apparently 4.29 million contraceptive users will be served by the close of the FY 2006-07. There is an increase of 0.6 million users as compared to the performance of 2005-06.

PSDP Allocations for 2007-08

The Population Welfare Program 2007-08 is in line with the sectoral targets and objectives set in MTDf (2005-10). An allocation of Rs 4.3 billion including a foreign loan of Rs 204.2 million has been earmarked for the population, in public sector 2007-08. There is an increase of Rs 1.3 billion over the actual expenditure of Rs 3.0 billion in the last financial year 2005-06.

Physical Targets 2007-08

The population welfare program envisages establishment of a number of service delivery outlets during the next FY 2007-08. Detail is reflected in Table 20.2

Table 20.2
Physical and Contraceptive Users Targets
(Cumulative Number)

Name of Service Outlet / Unit	2006-07 (Bench mark)	2007-08 (Targets)
Public Sector		
i) Family Welfare Centres (FWCs)	2600	2803
ii) Reproductive Health-A Centres	152	297
iii) Mobile Service Units (MSUs)	286	286
iv) Contraceptive users (million)	4.292	10.766
Private Sector		
i) RHS-B Centres	135	150
ii) Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs)	26080	26608
iii) Hakeems and Homeopaths	26550	27025

Source: Ministry of Population Welfare