



Government of Pakistan
M/o Planning Development & Special Initiatives
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
21-Mauve Area, G-9/1
Islamabad

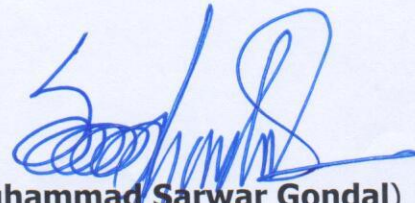


No. Census. PD&SI (1)/2020

Islamabad dated 3rd May, 2021

Subject: **MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR UPCOMING POPULATION CENSUS**

Kindly find enclosed herewith minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 27th April, 2021 at 02:30 AM in the Committee Room at 1st Floor of M/o PD&SI duly approved by the Chairman of the Committee, (Deputy Chairman Planning Commission) for information please.

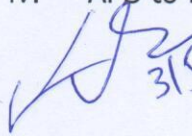

(Muhammad Sarwar Gondal)
Member / Secretary

Distribution: -

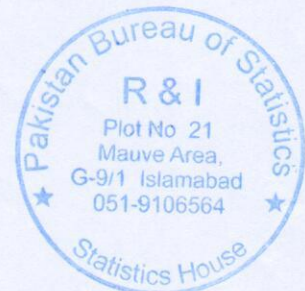
1. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist
2. Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Independent researcher
3. Dr. G. M. Arif, Independent researcher, Ex Joint Director, PIDE
4. Mr. Usman Jawaid, DG(Operations), NADRA,
5. Dr. Zeba A. Sathar, Demographer, Country Director, Population Council, Islamabad
6. Dr. Syed Muhammad Arif (Retd). Professor, University of Balochistan
7. Dr. Durr-e- Nayab, Demographer, Joint Director / Director Research, PIDE
8. Dr. Ayesha Shiraz, Demographer, Senior Fellow, NIPS
9. Dr. Sanam Wagma Khattak, Demographer, University of Peshawar
10. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS / Geography specialist

Copy for information to:

- i. SA/JS to Minister, M/o PD&SI, Islamabad.
- ii. SPS to Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Islamabad.
- iii. SPS to Secretary, M/o PD&SI, Islamabad.
- iv. APS to Member (Census & Surveys), PBS, Islamabad.


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No. Census. PD&SI (1)/20-
Government of Pakistan
M/o Planning, Development & Special Initiatives
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
Islamabad

Subject: **MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR UPCOMING POPULATION CENSUS**

In compliance to Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Notification No. Census/PD&SI (1)/20 dated 29th December 2020 & 22nd February 2021 regarding constitution of committee for "**Recommendations & Adoption of Best Practices for upcoming Population Census**", third meeting of the Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC), in the Committee Room at 1st floor of Ministry of PD&SI on **27th April, 2021** at 2.30 pm. List of participants is at **Annexure A**.


2. Meeting started with the recitation of few verses from the Holy *Quran*. The Chair welcomed all the worthy members and requested Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/ RM), PBS to apprise participants about the compliance of 2nd meeting decisions. Member (SS/RM), PBS presented the implementation status on the 2nd meeting decisions one by one as follows:

Decision 1: Reports prepared by PBS on key issues raised may be shared with all members for their input and guidance.

It was informed that all the material prepared regarding issues / critique on last census; Minutes of the subcommittee of Governing Council, International / National observers, Minutes of the meetings of provincial technical committees, articles / press clippings and Technical Evaluation Report of Census 2017 have been emailed to all esteemed members on 14th April 2021 for their review and valuable feedback.

Decision 2: Comprehensive work plan would be formulated along with constitution of working groups with Terms of reference and specific timelines on each TOR of the committee

He informed that in pursuance of this decision, PBS constituted in house committees and prepared comprehensive work plan with specific timelines and also proposed the names of esteemed members for five (5) working groups against each TOR. He then presented Gantt Chart for all activities of committee, according to which first draft of report with extensive review of whole process and recommendations for next census will be ready by 5th June 2021. The worthy chair requested all members to review the assignment in working groups and requested them to inform their preferred areas as early as possible. He was also of the view that some experts from the respective fields may be included in working groups especially related to Communication Strategy and ICT. He then invited esteemed members to give their feedback on the work plan and working group formations.

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- **Dr. G M Arif**, was of view that work plan and time plans are very ambitious. There is need to look in to it again as matter is of extreme importance. Work must be done diligently to review the whole process for devising recommendations for conduct of next census in most transparent way.
 - **Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin** too echoed similar concerns. He & **Dr. Ayesha Shiraz**, were of the view that in each working group, a representative from PBS may also be included for smooth processing of work.

The chair was of view that PBS based on work plan will prepare a working paper for the members of the committee with basic framework for incorporation of valuable input of members of the committee.

Decision 3: *Identify themes and prepare outlines for the proposed report for presenting to committee*

It was informed that PBS has prepared comprehensive draft outline of full report and separate outlines for each TOR. These were presented to committee for their review. It was added that these outlines are prepared keeping in view the main objective of the committee and to address all the key dimensions of the process.

Decision 4: *Digital technology must be adopted for next census in line with the experiences countries which already used different digital tools / platforms and innovative hybrid enumeration methods*

Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (SS/RM) informed the honorable committee members that PBS has initiated work on designing the basic architecture for digital administration of next census. He then presented the initial roadmap for conduct of next census using tablets linked with GIS monitoring in form of extensive presentation. He informed that PBS, since 2019, has undergone digital transformation. It now conducts all its surveys electronically through tablets including the huge activity of PSLM district level survey covering approximately 195000 households. Comparative study of the countries was presented who have used the modern technologies and methods to conduct Population & Housing census along with the method of data collection. He explained the basic mechanism of data collection using hybrid methods including face to face interviews and proposal of self-enumeration portal as used in Iran in last census. Procedures along with limitations were explained in detail to apprise the esteemed members regarding the different methodologies to conduct Digital census for provision of credible & timely data. After presentation floor was opened for discussion / comments. Copy of the presentation is attached with the minutes.

All members appreciated the comprehensive presentation regarding Digital census. Concerns, as follows, were, however, raised regarding the hybrid systems:

Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist, Planning Commission appreciated the work of PBS. He, however, felt that the proposed mechanism will develop a system parallel to NADRA. PBS clarified that NADRA mandate is for registration while objective of PBS is to provide accurate count of people through census for planning purposes. Clear boundaries will, therefore, be defined while adopting the modern technologies for avoiding any overlap / duplication.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, praised the work and was of view that technically sound plan has been proposed. He cautioned that Population Census is a sensitive exercise due to its linkage with resource allocation & representation. Professional teams, with practical approach keeping in view the ground realities, is needed for minimizing the errors, omissions and for its successful implementation. He was also of the view that idea of self-enumeration is appealing and must be tested even for smaller population. All possible data sources must be explored to provide reliable and accurate figures. The induction of digital technology in conducting census should be based on very careful consideration of the technology, its application and capacity to use it for the required purpose.

Dr. Zeba Sathar, added that presentation was impressive. She supported the idea of using tablets for expediting results and bringing transparency in the whole process. She, however, recalled that the last census results were contested by the provinces. Efforts must thus be made for increasing acceptability of results. The census exercise must be as simple as possible. The concept of self-enumeration could cause confusion and misgivings. She added that census is not registrations. It is counting the people. Linking census to multiple data sources like CNIC, mobile numbers etc. may generate controversies, which must be avoided.

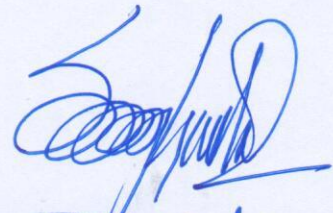
Dr. G M Arif also supported the views of Dr. Zeba Sathar. He appreciated the proposed Digital Census mechanism but termed it ambitious. Its practical implementation will be difficult keeping in view the ground realities of the country. He added that representation of all wings of PBS must be ensured for successful conduct of next census through effective planning and management.

Dr. Sanam Wagma added that use of technology is highly recommended. Steps, however, must be taken to ensure its successful implementation and storage of data. Some countries have experienced system crash during census data collection. Further the situation of areas must be considered for adopting technologies keeping in view their socio economic context for efficient, complete and authentic data.

3. The chair thanked all esteemed members for their valuable feedback. He added that primary goal of Census is to get accurate count with complete coverage. Detailed deliberations thus must be held with all stakeholders regarding the entire process including adoption of modern technologies. He advised that seminars and workshops for sensitization of all stakeholders could be held for devising the mechanism for yielding credible, timely results with wider acceptability. He also added that due to challenging timelines, all efforts must be made to complete the task at earliest possible by conducting activities in parallel. Complete road map, from start to completion of activities, must be devised. He stated that Pakistan has network of universities and colleges throughout the country. Employing graduate students for the census process needs to be explored. It will not only provide educated workforce for enumeration but would also create widespread awareness of the process. University and College teachers could be utilized for the exercise at the supervisory tier. He emphasized that more and more female enumerators must be engaged in census process as they can access the household and get accurate data. He suggested that reputable IT universities should be tapped to design the concept of Digital Census.

Decisions: -

- i. PBS to prepare an online secure web resource for all the members. All the relevant documentation will be uploaded for easy access to all the members and their feedback.
 - ii. PBS will share the constitution of working groups with all members, who will provide their consent and preferred area of interest within three days of the meeting.
 - iii. Representatives of PBS may be added in each working group for smooth execution.
 - iv. Relevant Experts may be added in each working group for preparation of sound recommendations.
 - v. Ministry of Information may be contacted to nominate suitable person for assistance in drafting Communication Strategy.
 - vi. Draft outlines may be shared with all working groups for their review and comments.
 - vii. HEC be consulted to explore the feasibility of engaging graduate students in the census process especially enumeration.
 - viii. Reputable IT Universities be approached and a technical group constituted to recommend usage of ICT in the census exercise.
 - ix. Meetings of the committee will be conducted on weekly basis.
4. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the committee members and other participants from the Chair.



Muhammad Sarwar Gondal
Member (RM)

Member (SS/RM)

Annexure A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF MEETING HELD ON 27th April, 2021

1. Mr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, (Chairman)
2. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair, Chief Economist, Planning Commission, (Member)
3. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/ RM), PBS, (Member/Secretary)
4. Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Independent researcher, (Member)
5. Dr. Zeba A. Sathar, Country Directors Population Council, Islamabad, (Member)
6. Dr. G.M .Arif, Ex. Joint Director of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)
7. Dr. Ayesha Shiraz, Demographer, Senior Fellow, NIPS, Islamabad, (Member)
8. Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Director, NADRA, Islamabad
9. Dr. Sanam Wagma Khattak, Demographer, University of Peshawar, (Member)
10. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist, Karachi, (Member)
11. Mr. Ayazuddin, Member (Census & Surveys), PBS, Islamabad
12. Ms. Rabia Awan, Director. PBS, Islamabad