

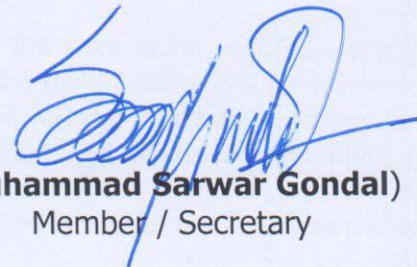


No. Census. PD&SI (1)/2020

Islamabad dated 24th June, 2021

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

Kindly find enclosed herewith minutes of the 5th meeting held on 10th June, 2021 at 02:30 PM 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. Ehtasham Shahid, 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
11. Ms. Ayesha Tasaddaq, Director (HP), Press Information Department (PID),

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.

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

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

Fifth Meeting of the Committee constituted for “**Recommendations & Adoption of Best Practices for upcoming Population Census**”, was convened by the chairman of the Committee Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC), in the Committee Room at 1st floor of Ministry of PD&SI on **10th June, 2021** at 2.30 pm. Mr. Asad Umar, Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives attended the meeting on DCPC’s request and was asked to chair the session. Dr. Mehtab S. Karim, renowned demographer also attended the meeting. List of participants is at **Annexure A**.

2. Meeting started with the recitation of few verses from the Holy *Quran*. DCPC welcomed all the honorable members and especially thanked Minister PD&SI for giving his valuable time for reviewing the work so far done by the committee constituted for the recommendations & adoptions of best practices for upcoming census. After brief introduction of all members, he requested Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/ RM), PBS & Member (Secretary) of committee to apprise the worthy minister about the progress so far made for conducting next census by adopting modern methodologies in a transparent way as per international practices.

3. Member (SS/RM), PBS, briefed the worthy Minister that till now four meetings of the committee have been conducted and extensive deliberations and work has been done by this Committee against each Term of Reference(TOR). He added that PBS has established in-house dedicated Census Planning Unit for preparation of material for the committee by involving all relevant resources, further five working Groups have been formed on each TOR comprising of members of committee and one focal person from PBS to assist the committee. Draft outlines for each chapter of the TOR has been prepared. Moreover, as desired by the worthy DCPC, a login based Web Portal, <https://cc.pbos.gov.pk> has been developed for instant access of members to relevant material (issues, proposals, presentations, minutes etc.) for preparation of contents of their relevant chapters. For transparency and broader engagement of public, the Portal will be accessible for general public after finalization of recommendations for their feedback. He then presented the progress made on each TOR one by one as follows: -

TOR 1: To review the census process, data collection and field operation methodologies used for Census 2017 & recommend the modern methodologies being adopted for censuses in region & globe for conduct of upcoming census

It was informed that PBS has done forensic audit of all the material/ record from, Minutes of meetings of the subcommittee of Governing Council constituted for Census 2017, International/National observer’s reports, PBS’s own Technical Evaluation report and questions raised by independent researchers through print media/electronic media. Based on the available material *comprehensive analytical reports* with all documentation have been prepared and shared with all esteemed members for their review so that strategies can be devised to avoid these issues in upcoming census.

TOR 2: To compare the regional/globally adopted census questionnaires and proposals for improvement

It was apprised to worthy Minister that PBS conducted a comparative study to review the questionnaires used in censuses, regionally/ globally, The study along with proposals has been shared with the committee for their feedback to improve the upcoming census questionnaire. It was informed that PBS has done

in-depth study of census questionnaires used in seven regional countries namely, Turkey, India, Iran, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal & Srilanka and three developed countries namely US, UK & Australia. It was decided that working group headed by Dr. Nizamuddin will further work to identify and decide the areas which may be included in the questionnaire.

TOR 3: To review mode of Data Collection (Manual /Electronic) for provision of timely & credible results & recommendation for adoption of innovative tools & technologies for GEO referred enumeration up to the household level for upcoming census

Worthy Minister was apprised that committee in its first meeting also decided that "PBS will study the practices used by other countries for electronic data collection, globally & regionally and prepare draft paper with complete roadmap and the cost involved and present such report to the census committee". In compliance, PBS prepared extensive comparative study of the six regional & global countries data collection mechanisms and presented it in detail during 3rd meeting of the Committee along with a roadmap. The comparative study and the modalities of "Digital Census" were also briefly presented to Minister for his views/feedback. It is briefed that many developed countries are using different data collection mechanisms in the census like, **Self-Enumeration method, Computer Assisted Personal interviews(CAPI), Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews(CATI), OCR/ ICR pens and Register based Census**. Pakistan cannot use the register method at this stage, owing to its incompleteness. It was further briefed that Data Models and required software are being identified and Support centers at tehsil level will be established with the involvement of third party for smooth handling of the process of Digital Census. Minister PD&SI was of view that Registration Mechanism developed by NADRA is one of the best in world with Unique Identification Number (UIN) and can be utilized for next census. Member(SS/RM) informed that registration of population 18 years and above is well maintained by NADRA, however the birth and death registration mechanism is not fully developed and the work on integrating the system with the local councils is still in progress, therefore it does not provide complete information needed for population census. However, Minister PD&SI, Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin and Dr. G M Arif were of view that we must use the information maintained by NADRA for improving the information collected in upcoming census.

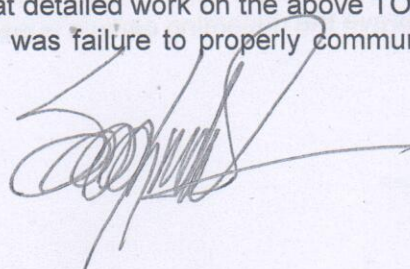
TOR 4: To review the best practices of field operations including monitoring/supervision & data processing to minimize the omissions/ errors and complete coverage

Member (SS/RM) informed that work on preparation of material regarding this TOR is in progress and PBS has prepared extensive comparative study of field operation mechanisms of regional/ global countries. Currently, working group under guidance of Dr. G M Arif is reviewing it for compilation of comprehensive report. It was informed that the major recommendations so far proposed after studying the countries are as follows: -

- Conduct of **pilot census**
- Involvement of Stakeholders Especially Provinces in each stage from planning to compilation
- Involvement of Academia, universities
- Use of modern data collection mechanism / Digital Census
- Extensive / comprehensive trainings / using digital interventions
- Involvement of female enumerators
- Standard Operating Procedures may be developed for handling big size blocks
- Geo-tagging of all structures for complete coverage
- Real-time monitoring by designing specialized dashboards for improving credibility
- Conduct of **Post-Enumeration Survey**

TOR 5: To devise strategy for confidence building measures of all stakeholders for smooth completion of census operations and for increasing reliability & credibility of census results

Minister PD&SI was apprised that detailed work on the above TOR has been done. The major flaws in the last census communication strategy was failure to properly communicate the actual objectives of the



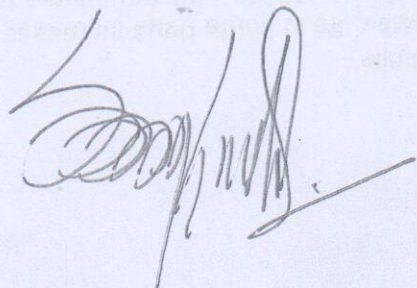
census to all stakeholders, specially the general public. Further, lack of measures to build confidence of all stakeholders in the census process resulted in increased misconceptions and raised questions on the whole census process. Based on the lesson learnt from the previous process, it is recommended that a comprehensive communication strategy will be designed by considering following points: -

- Consultation and confidence building of stakeholders from beginning till end
- Integrated communication Approach-with other Census activities
- Sensitization of Elected representatives of Assemblies / Public Leaders / academicians and other stakeholders
- Public Campaign has to begin early and extend right up to the release of the first initial results (Electronic, Print & other Media)
- Development of Information, Education and communication (IEC) material (Slogan, Logo, Jingle, TVC, Posters, Flyers, Banners, Uniform, merchandising)
- Involvement of **Minbar Masjid/ Hujra-Bethak/ Regional local Notables**
- Regular Active interaction with mainstream media of Pakistan (Press Briefing, News Tickers, panel discussions, interviews, informative news articles etc.
- Acquiring services of Advertising agencies as per policy of Press Information Department
- Use of **technology** with all innovative ways of communication (**YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Website, WhatsApp, SMS etc.**)

After Presenting the progress on TORs, Member (SS/RM) informed that PBS through Ministry PD&SI has submitted demand of allocation of *23 billion* in the next financial year for conduct of "**Digital Census**". Further, he informed that for conducting census in the year 2022, consultations with provinces and law enforcement agencies may be initiated for smooth and timely completion of the gigantic activity of paramount importance. **Minister PD&SI informed that matter for allocation of Budget has been taken with Ministry of Finance and they are allocating amount, which will be announced in the budget to be presented on 11th June 2021.** However, he was of view before proceeding further it is imperative that work must be done meticulously to design the mechanism/methodology to conduct next census and the timelines to present it to CCI along with the roadmap.

4. The worthy DCPC while briefing the Minister PD&SI informed that major reasons of apprehension raised on results of Census 2017 identified from the critique are of the **trust deficit** which was mainly due to closed processes, communication gap and non-conduct of Post Enumeration Survey. He was of view that Population Census is national activity of vital importance. It provides data for key policy making matters regarding development programs, political representation & resource allocation which have far reaching impacts. Therefore, greater emphasis must be given on quality, coverage and timelines. We must restrict the census truly to its objective of provision of information regarding population count & allied important demographic characteristics and should not increase its dimensions. He informed that to improve next census by bringing transparency and credibility to the whole process. The committee so far has consensus on the following fundamental tasks -

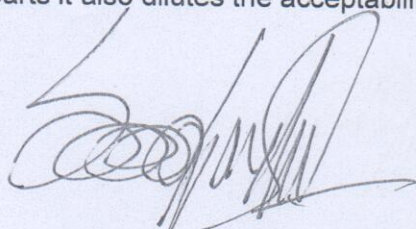
- *Digital Census with real time monitoring*
- *Minimize apprehensions by involving all stakeholders, including elected representatives, in the whole process for confidence building and acceptance of results.*
- *Adoption of UN guidelines by aligning them to round realities*
- *Development of robust communication plan by involving universities, academia, provincial departments and other relevant stakeholders to educate the public.*
- *Project based approach for conducting census for systematic application of all steps, including monitoring & evaluation and third party validation*



He further informed that committee will prepare its final recommendations by end of July 2021. He then opened the floor and requested the respected members to present their point of view

- **Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin**, appreciated the work done so far. He added that there is need to finalize short questionnaire with relevant questions to collect quality data in shortest possible time. Adherence to UN principals is fundamental for successful conduct of census as per international standards. He was of view that as security/law and order situation improved in country therefore there is no need of Armed forces for upcoming census and we can conduct census by imposing two days' curfew all over Pakistan using shorter version of questionnaire for provision of data for policymaking.
- **Dr. Mehtab S. Karim** also endorsed the views of Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin views regarding short questionnaire by including only basic questions. He added that census should be conducted as soon as possible preferably by March 2022, and efforts must be made to improve next census by learning from experiences of 6th Population & Housing Census.
- **Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist** appreciated the work so far done by Committee and was of view that work has been done in right direction and if recommendations of the committee are adopted in true letter & Spirit, it will result in credible and widely acceptable census. He also added that it will be in goodness of things that delimitations of blocks may be also revised for bifurcating bigger blocks and merging of smaller blocks identified in the Census 2017 for smooth field operations and avoiding complications.
- **Dr. Muhammad Arif** was of view that technical mistakes made in Census 2017 must be corrected. Pilot census and Post enumeration survey are critical for quality census and must be conducted. Comprehensive trainings, involvement of all stakeholders and increasing the duration of House listing operations will result in better coverage and quality data with greater acceptability. He supported the proposal of conduct of next census digitally, however, keeping in view the peculiar conditions of certain areas especially Balochistan, an alternative mechanism may also be developed for data collection. He added that presence of Army in census 2017 has resulted in better coverage, credible results with broader involvement of all ethnic groups. Therefore for upcoming census role of armed forces must be considered as it not only provides security but also help in complete coverage and bringing credibility to the whole process.
- **Dr. G M Arif** added that Population & Housing Census is gigantic task and is of extreme importance. There is need to plan diligently to conduct it successfully. PBS has done extensive work. However, to achieve the tasks of the committee, timelines of **Completion of report, Finalization of questionnaire and methodology to conduct Pilot Census** must be decided.
- **Dr. Durr-e- Nayab, Demographer, Joint Director PIDE** endorsed views of all esteemed members. She was of view that PIDE has done birth registration study and it resulted in erratic results. Therefore using NADRA data (which is not accessible for validation) for Population Census is not recommended at all.
- **Syeda Ayesha Tassaduq, Director (Home Publicity), Press Information Department (PID)** appreciated the proposed communication strategy and was of view that it addresses the 360-degree approach. She extended full cooperation of Ministry for devising comprehensive communication strategy for broader involvement and confidence building of all stakeholders.

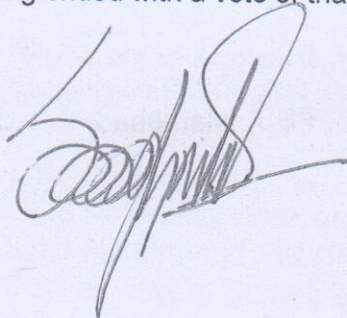
5. Minister PD& SI thanked all participants and requested that committee must **finalize the proposed methodology and step by step timelines for conduct of next census as soon as possible for presenting to CCI**. He informed esteemed members that Final results of Seventh Population & Housing Census must be available by February 2023 for allowing Election Commission of Pakistan to complete the delimitation process before conduct of General elections in September 2023. He further added that Committee must deliberate in detail regarding involvement of Armed forces in Census exercise, as in some parts increases credibility but on other hand in some parts it also dilutes the acceptability of results.



6. The DCPC thanked all esteemed members for their valuable feedback. He added that primary goal of Census is to get accurate count with complete coverage. Efforts must be made to design the process with prudent approach for conduct of Census in transparent way for provision of credible & reliable results with wider acceptability. Comprehensive work must also be done for drafting communication strategy with the help of experts from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for confidence building of all stakeholders. He added that committee must work in two parallel tracks for finalizing the census methodology and its timelines for presenting to CCI and the working groups must complete their work by 30th June 2021 for preparation of initial draft of chapters by 7th July 2021. He advised to use log frame approach for efficient completion of tasks.

Decisions: -

- i. Representative of NADRA will be requested to present in next meeting regarding the data availability especially related to the birth & death registration to implement the idea of register based census.
 - ii. Working Group for TOR 4, regarding field operations will present their work in next meeting.
 - iii. Committee will work side by side on devising the recommendations for census methodology and timelines for each step for conduct of census
 - iv. Communication strategy may be drafted with close coordination of the Ministry of Information & broadcasting, the initial draft may be shared with Ministry for their expert review and feedback.
 - v. All working groups must complete their work for devising recommendations/ frame work for their relevant TOR by 30th June 2021.
 - vi. Initial draft of chapters must be ready by 7th July and first draft of full report by 15th July 2021 for review
7. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the committee members and other participants from the DCPC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, located below the meeting minutes text.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF MEETING HELD ON 10th June, 2021

1. Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Planning Development & Special initiatives, Islamabad (Chair)
2. Mr. Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, (Covener)
3. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member (Support Services/ RM), PBS, (Member/Secretary)
4. Professor Dr. Muhammad Nizamuddin, Independent researcher, (Member)
5. Dr. G..M Arif, Independent Researcher Ex. Joint Director of PIDE, (Member)
6. Dr. Syed Muhammad Arif, Retd, Professor, University of Balochistan, (Member)
7. Dr. Mehtab S. Karim, Independent Researcher
8. Dr. Durr-e-Nayab, Demographer, Joint Director, PIDE, Islamabad, (Member)
9. Dr. Ayesha Shiraz, Demographer, Senior Fellow, NIPS, Islamabad, (Member)
10. Dr. Sanam Wagma Khattak, Demographer, University of Peshawar, (Member)
11. Khawaja Mazhar Jamal, GIS specialist, Karachi, (Member)
12. Syeda Ayesha Tassaduq, Director (HP), PID, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Islamabad
13. Mr. Ayazuddin, Member (Census & Surveys), PBS,
14. Ms. Rabia Awan, Director. PBS, Islamabad
15. Mr. Yasir Ishfaq, Director, Data processing/ Support Services, PBS, Islamabad