

Population Growth & Distribution Pattern in Punjab, Pakistan (1998-2017): A Geospatial Approach

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Abstract: This study is about the population growth and distribution pattern of Punjab, Pakistan. According to the current census of 2017 the Punjab is still having largest share of population but minimum growth rate in Pakistan as compare to other provinces. This will impact its NA seats and other resource distribution.

Keywords—Population; Growth; Distribution; Density;

I. INTRODUCTION

The word Punjab means ("the land of five rivers") which refers to the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej Rivers, all of which are tributaries of the Indus River. This is an area in South Asia that is situated in Pakistan.

According to the current census 2017, the total count of population in Pakistan is 207,774,520 as reported by census department of Pakistan. Punjab is on top of the charts with around 110 million population. Sindh has scored the second position with 47 million people. KPK has 30 million residents and is on third position. Baluchistan has 12 million residents. Although there is a drop in the population growth rate at country level, Punjab and Sindh Provinces has low growth rate as compare to Baluchistan and KPK.

A. Historical Population Growth of Punjab 2)

Punjab has shown a remarkable five folds increase in its population since 1951 to 2017. It was just 20 million in 1951 which is 110.011 million now. The land of Punjab has changed a lot since independence and it has large cities of Pakistan. Lahore is the second largest city but its pace to grow is higher than Karachi.

Census	Population	Urban	Rural
1951	20,540,762	3,568,076	16,972,686
1961	25,463,974	5,475,922	19,988,052
1972	37,607,423	9,182,695	28,424,728
1981	47,292,441	13,051,646	34,240,795
1998	73,621,290	23,019,025	50,602,265
2017	110,012,615	70,008,451	40,401,164

Source:www.en.wikipedia.org [1]

Table 1: Population increase of Punjab from 1951 to 2017

B. Population Distribution in 1998

According to 1998 census the total number of Punjab’s population was raised to 73,621,290 from 47,292,441 of 1981 census. It was increased at the rate of 2-6 and it was 55.7 % share of the total population of Pakistan. In 1998 Punjab’s population density increased up to 359 persons/ sq. km. it was 230 persons per sq. kilometer in 1981. [2]

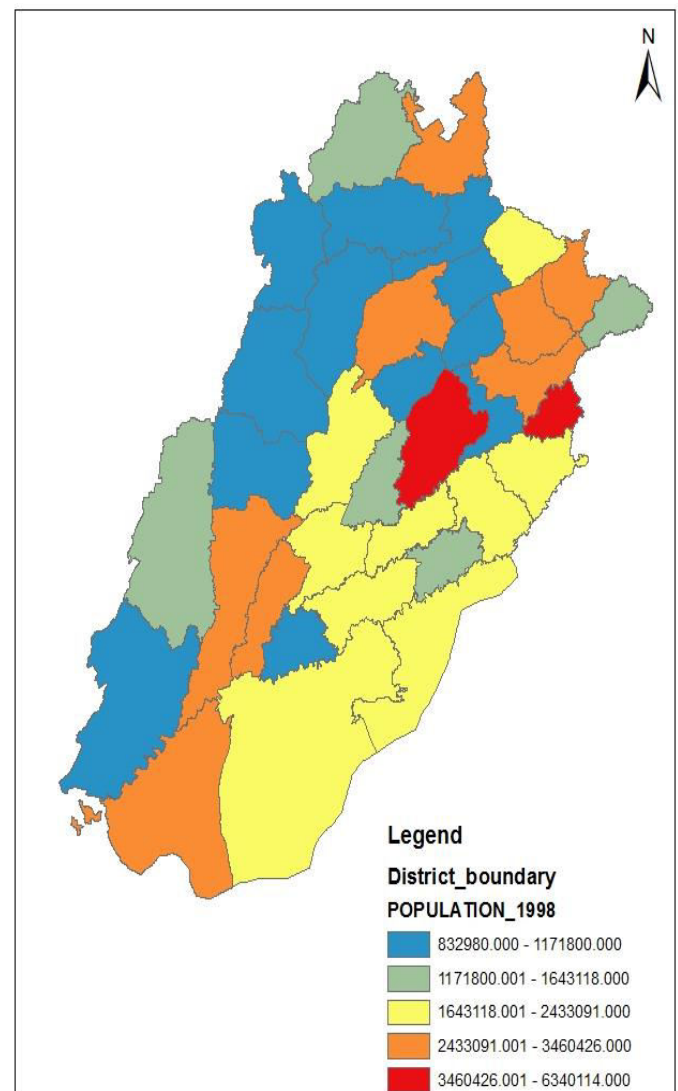


Fig.1: Population Distribution in Punjab According to 1998 Census

The figure no. 1 is showing the population distribution in Punjab according to 1981 population census. The urban population was 31.3 percent of the total population of Punjab, which increased at an average rate 3.4 percent during 1981-1998.

II. MATERIAL AND DISCUSSION

Punjab yet again sealed the 1st position with 111 million population with over 117 million houses. Ratio of Punjab’s population decreased from 55.62 to 52.94 percent anyhow Punjab’s population has increased. The province’s population has increased by 36.4 million in past 19 years which is 49.4% greater than the 1998 figures. Punjab’s population has increased at the rate of 2.13 percent, that is the bottom pace of progression amongst all the provinces and also lesser than the national average.

A. Population Distribution Pattern

The share of urban population in Punjab has increased to 36.71% but its 63.9% population still lives in rural areas. There are now 49% women in Punjab as compared to 48.2% in 1998.

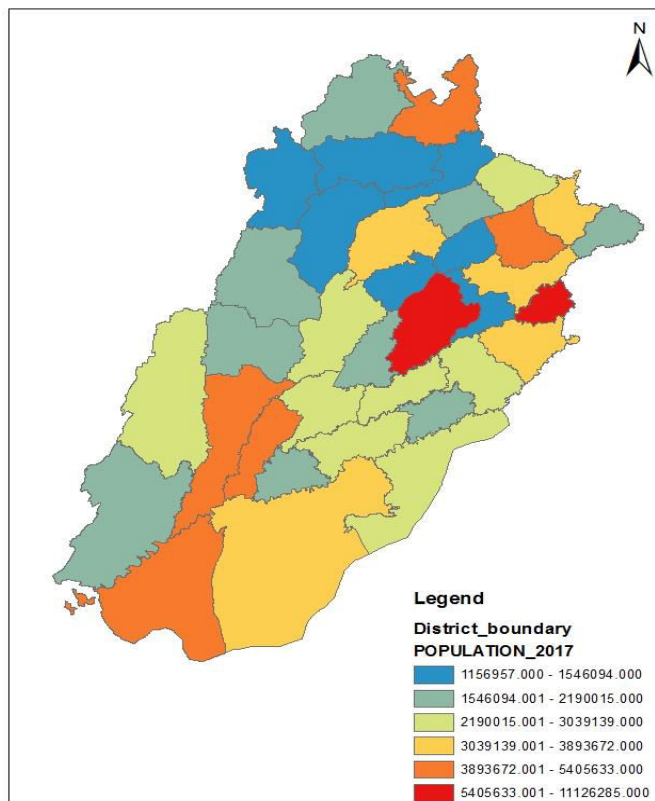


Fig. 2: Population Distribution of Punjab According to 2017 Census

B. Population Density of punjab in 2017

Punjab’s population density has also increased from 359 persons per sq. kilometers to 754 persons per sq. kilometers. Lahore is the most densely populated district. Its population density has increased from 3566 to 6278. On second position according to population density Gujranwala stands with 1384 persons per sq. kilometer, while on third position Faisalabad is standing with 1344 persons per square kilometer.

Sr. No.	Districts of Punjab	Area/sq. km	2017 population	Density Persons per sq. km 2017	1998 population
1	Attock	6,858	1,883,556	274	1274935
2	Bahawalnagar	8,878	2,981,919	335	2061447
3	Bahawalpur	24,830	3,668,106	147	2433091
4	Bhakkar	8,153	1,650,518	202	1051456
5	Chakwal	6,524	1,495,982	229	1083725
6	Chiniot	2,643	1,369,740	518	965124
7	Dera G. Khan	11,922	2,872,201	240	1643118
8	Faisalabad	5,856	7,873,910	1344	5429547
9	Gujranwala	3,622	5,014,196	1384	3400940
10	Gujrat	3,192	2,756,110	863	2048008
11	Hafizabad	2,367	1,156,957	488	832980
12	Jhang	8,809	2,743,416	311	1869421
13	Jhelum	3,587	1,222,650	340	936957
14	Kasur	4,796	3,454,996	720	2354506

15	Khanewal	4,349	2,921,986	671	2068490
16	Khushab	6,511	1,281,299	196	905711
17	Lahore	1,772	11126285	6278	6340114
18	Layyah	6,291	1,824,230	290	1120951
19	Lodhran	2,778	1,700,620	612	1171800
20	Mandi Bahauddin	2,673	1,593,292	596	1160552
21	Mianwali	5,840	1,546,094	264	1056620
22	Multan	3,720	4,745,109	1275	3116851
23	Muzaffargarh	8,249	4,322,009	523	2635903
25	Nankana Sahib	2,960	1,356,374	458	1044865
24	Narowal	2,337	1,709,757	731	1265097
26	Okara	4,377	3,039,139	694	2232992
27	Pakpattan	2,724	1,823,687	669	1286680
28	Rahim Yar Khan	11,880	4,814,006	405	3141053
29	Rajanpur	12,319	1,995,958	162	1103618
30	Rawalpindi	5,286	5,405,633	1322	3363911
31	Sahiwal	3,201	2,517,560	786	1843194
32	Sargodha	5,854	3,703,588	632	2665979
33	Sheikhupura	5,960	3,460,426	580	3460426
34	Sialkot	3,016	3,893,672	1291	2723481
35	Toba Tek Singh	3,252	2,190,015	673	1621593
36	Vehari	4,364	2,897,446	663	2090416

Source: www.en.wikipedia.org [1]

Table 2: Population Density and Distribution According to Census of 1998 and Census of 2017

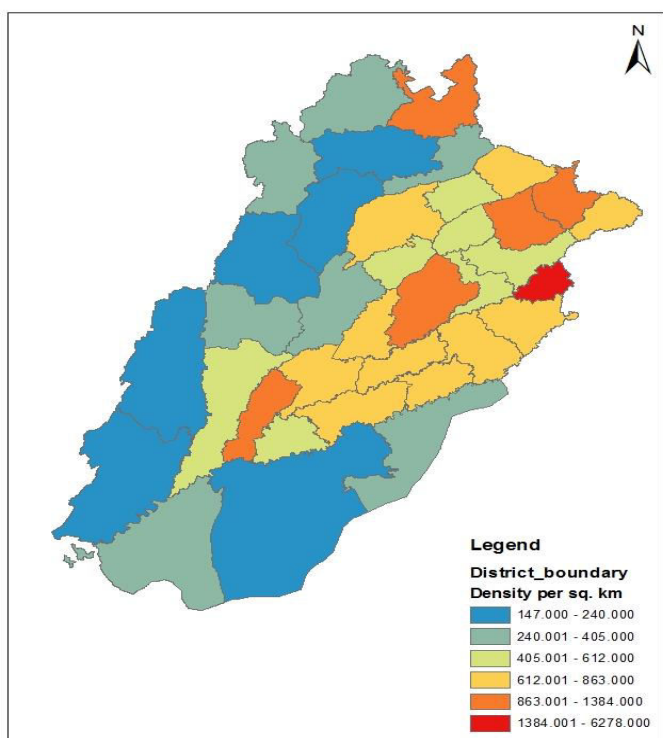


Fig. 3: Population Density of Punjab According to 2017 Census

C. The Urban Rural Share in Punjab

The rate of urban increase has strengthened in Punjab and the rural population has shown a decline 1.8 percent as compared to urban advance which is 2.7 percent. There is no typical description for the urban area versus rural in Pakistan. Only few cities of Punjab have an urban-rural boundary, while others are completely urban.

Classification	Urban population	Rural population	Total population
Population	40,387,298	69,625,144	110,012,442
Male	20,760,984	35,197,990	55,958,974
Female	19,621,729	34,425,030	54,046,759
Transgender	4,585	2,124	6,709
Household	6,389,733	10,714,102	17,103,835

Source: www.theurbanunit.gov.pk[3]

Table 3: Punjab Population Details According to Census 2017

The share of urban population in Punjab is 40,387,298 out of total population 110,012,442. Total number of males are 20,760,984 while female population is 19,621,729 which is less than male. For the first time transgender population is also measured. There are 4585 transgender persons in Punjab. There are total 17,103,835 households in Punjab. Out of which 6,389,733 are in urban area and 10,714,102 are in rural area.

D. Population Profile of Punjab

As compared to total population of Pakistan Punjab’s growth rate has shown a decline. There is a big share of 40 million urban population of Punjab in 75.5 million urban population of Pakistan. Still 70 million of Punjab’s population resides in rural areas.

Adult literacy rate in males is 71 percent while in female it is 55 percent, as compare to Pakistan’s 70 percent male literacy and 49 percent female literacy rate. There are 65 deaths per 1000 live births. Fertility rate in Punjab is 3.5 which is higher than average fertility rate of Pakistan that is 3.1. [4]

Pointers	Pakistan	Punjab
Population	207.8 million	110 million
Growth Rate	2.4%	2.13%
Density per sq. km	236 persons	536 persons
Urban Population	75.6 million	40 million
Rural Population	132 million	70 million
Literacy rate	70% male, 49% female	71% male, 55% female
Mortality Rate	66 per 1000 live births	65 per 1000 live births
Fertility Rate	3.1	3.5

Source www.pwd.punjab.gov.pk[5]

Table 4: A Brief Demographic Profile of Punjab, Pakistan

III. CONCLUSION

Over all figures shows a great increase in Punjab’s population. No doubt its growth rate has fallen but still the largest populated province of Pakistan. Fertility rate is high but still slow growth may be due to increase in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s population.

There is also a great increase in urban population share of the Punjab which is also good but still an alarm for declining rural crop land, our food basket.

Population density is increasing in urban areas rapidly like Lahore, Gujranwala, and Faisalabad and in other large cities of Punjab. So the urban land is rapidly expanding and engulfing the rural area.

So the government should try to promote vertical rise in cities rather than horizontal expansion of cities. There is a great need of good planning for the betterment of the people living in Punjab.

Large population of Punjab is a big responsibility for the government to fulfill the needs of the growing population. After 19 years the census clearly shows where we stand. It is possible to manage the resources and plan for future now to avoid problems in future according to the growing population and decreasing resources.

Growing population density also has associations for pollution; waste management and climate change that policymakers need to start concentrating on.

After an interval of 19 years, even elementary variations may look monumental once collected. However, without census data, policy planning is not much better than guesswork. The research community will be excited about using new data; however it will take some time before these results find a way into result-oriented strategies and policies.

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