

CHAPTER 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS

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A profile of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population in the sample households is presented in this chapter to provide background information about the respondents interviewed in the PDHS. The characteristics of the population are compared with those reported from earlier surveys and censuses, wherever possible, to examine differentials and trends.

3.1 Household Composition

Data on the household composition of the de jure population are presented for urban and rural areas in Table 3.1. The results show that households in Pakistan are predominantly headed by males.¹ Only seven percent of all households are headed by females. This figure is slightly higher than the corresponding six percent obtained in the 1979-80 Population, Labour Force and Migration Survey.

Pakistani households tend to be large with an average of six to seven persons living and eating together in a single household. The typical household in Pakistan has an average of 6.7 persons, but about one-quarter (26 percent) of all households have four or fewer members. The breakdown by place of residence shows that there are more members in urban households (7.2 persons) than in rural households (6.5 persons). These results are consistent with the findings of the Pakistan Contraceptive Prevalence Survey (PCPS) and the Population, Labour Force and Migration Survey (PLM). The lower mean size of households in rural areas could be due partly to the migration of some household members to urban areas.

Joint and extended family living arrangements are the norm in Pakistan. More than 60 percent of households have three or more related adults, while one-third have two related adults. Only one household in twenty had just one adult among the usual residents of the household.

Another topic for which data are generally not available in Pakistan is the extent to which children live with families other than their own parents. In the PDHS, only one percent of households contained children under 15 years of age, who were not living with either of their natural parents. Many of these children are likely to be domestic servants, although some may be adopted or foster children.

¹Respondents to the household questionnaire were asked to identify the head of the household themselves. No standard definition was provided since the objective was to determine who was the head of the household according to the respondent's own definition of that concept.

Table 3.1 Household composition

Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household, household size, and kinship of household members, and the percentage of households with children not living with either of their natural parents, according to urban-rural residence, Pakistan 1990-91

Household characteristic	Total urban	Major city	Other urban	Rural	Total
Household head					
Male	92.1	93.0	90.9	93.2	92.9
Female	7.9	7.0	9.1	6.8	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of usual members					
1	1.9	1.3	2.7	3.4	2.9
2	4.6	4.3	5.1	6.6	6.0
3	6.4	6.2	6.7	7.8	7.4
4	8.5	9.6	6.9	9.9	9.5
5	11.6	11.6	11.7	12.5	12.3
6	13.5	14.1	12.7	13.3	13.4
7	12.4	12.7	12.0	11.6	11.8
8	12.6	11.6	14.0	11.6	11.9
9 +	28.5	28.7	28.2	23.2	24.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.5	6.7
1979-80 PLM mean size	6.6	U	U	6.1	6.3
1984-85 PCPS mean size	7.3	7.4	7.2	6.7	6.9
Kinship of household members					
One adult	3.0	2.2	4.2	5.4	4.7
2 related adults opposite sex	27.8	27.6	28.0	32.9	31.4
2 related adults same sex	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.6
3+ related adults	65.8	65.9	65.7	59.5	61.4
Other	1.9	3.0	0.6	0.5	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage of households with children not living with either of their natural parents	1.0	0.6	1.6	1.1	1.1
Number of households	2120	1202	918	5073	7193

U = Unknown; no information

3.2 Age-sex Distribution of the Household Population

As in many developing countries, data collection efforts in Pakistan are subject to age misreporting and heaping on certain ages due to digit preference. Because of these limitations, special attention was paid in the PDHS to minimizing age reporting errors. Interviewers were given training in the techniques of probing to elicit age information that is as accurate as possible. Interviewers were also provided with reference calendars to help them in determining an approximate age for those respondents who were not able to report their exact age or date of birth. One calendar listed the dates of major national and local events for the last fifty years. Another calendar showed how to convert seasonal and Islamic months into dates in the

Gregorian calendar. Finally, interviewers were provided with an age conversion table to allow them to check the consistency of age and date of birth responses. In most rural areas, where knowledge about ages and dates of birth is not the norm, the PDHS interviewers were largely successful in estimating age information by using the calendars or calculating the ages of individuals relative to the age of any household member whose age could be determined. Nevertheless, errors in recording ages and dates of birth could not be totally eliminated.

Table 3.2 shows the age distribution of the de facto male and female population enumerated in the PDHS and sex ratios by five-year age groups. Because of continuing high levels of fertility, Pakistan's population is relatively young (see Figure 3.1). The median age of the de facto population is 17.6 years. Some age misreporting is evident from an examination of the age distributions. The sex ratios further help to highlight some of the errors in the data. The overall sex ratio for Pakistan is 1.08 males for each female. The sex ratios for the population as a whole are fairly stable up to age 40-44, but rather erratic thereafter. The relatively high sex ratio at age 45-49 (particularly in urban areas) suggests that in some cases interviewers may have "aged" women in that age group across the 50-year age boundary so that the women would be ineligible for the individual interview.

Table 3.2 Household population by age, residence and sex

Percent distribution of the de facto household population by five-year age group, according to urban-rural residence and sex, Pakistan 1990-91

Age group	Total urban			Major city			Other urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Male	Female	Sex ratio
0-4	12.6	13.6	0.98	12.3	13.7	0.95	13.0	13.4	1.02	13.4	13.6	1.08	13.2	13.6	1.05
5-9	15.2	16.5	0.97	14.7	15.5	1.00	16.0	17.9	0.94	18.2	17.9	1.11	17.3	17.5	1.07
10-14	13.4	14.3	0.99	12.8	14.1	0.96	14.2	14.6	1.02	13.9	13.3	1.14	13.8	13.7	1.09
15-19	11.7	11.3	1.09	11.8	11.5	1.08	11.5	11.1	1.10	9.7	9.5	1.11	10.3	10.1	1.10
20-24	9.0	8.7	1.10	9.6	9.4	1.07	8.3	7.6	1.15	7.4	8.0	1.02	7.9	8.2	1.05
25-29	7.2	7.5	1.02	7.7	7.8	1.04	6.6	7.0	0.98	6.3	7.7	0.90	6.6	7.6	0.94
30-34	5.5	5.5	1.06	5.4	5.3	1.07	5.7	5.7	1.05	5.3	5.5	1.05	5.3	5.5	1.05
35-39	5.3	5.0	1.12	5.6	5.3	1.10	5.0	4.6	1.16	4.2	4.3	1.07	4.6	4.5	1.09
40-44	4.1	3.7	1.16	4.3	3.7	1.20	3.8	3.6	1.11	4.0	4.1	1.06	4.0	4.0	1.09
45-49	3.6	2.7	1.43	3.9	2.5	1.65	3.3	2.9	1.18	3.1	2.8	1.20	3.2	2.7	1.27
50-54	2.9	3.6	0.86	3.1	3.3	0.98	2.8	4.0	0.74	2.8	3.7	0.83	2.9	3.7	0.84
55-59	2.1	2.2	1.04	2.1	2.2	1.01	2.2	2.1	1.09	2.1	3.0	0.78	2.1	2.7	0.85
60-64	2.6	2.2	1.24	2.7	2.3	1.21	2.6	2.1	1.28	3.2	2.5	1.38	3.0	2.4	1.34
65-69	1.6	1.1	1.51	1.5	1.2	1.38	1.6	1.0	1.70	1.9	1.7	1.21	1.8	1.5	1.28
70-74	1.5	1.0	1.47	1.3	1.1	1.28	1.6	1.0	1.75	2.5	1.2	2.36	2.2	1.1	2.09
75-79	0.5	0.2	2.37	0.5	0.2	3.20	0.4	0.3	1.67	0.6	0.4	1.57	0.6	0.3	1.73
80 +	1.1	0.9	1.20	0.9	0.9	1.10	1.3	1.0	1.32	1.5	0.8	2.08	1.4	0.8	1.76
Missing/ Don't know	0.1	--	*	--	--	*	0.1	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	1.38
Total	100.0	100.0	1.06	100.0	100.0	1.06	100.0	100.0	1.05	100.0	100.0	1.10	100.0	100.0	1.08
Number	7480	7089	14569	4303	4070	8373	3177	3019	6196	16293	14876	31169	23773	21965	45737

-- Less than 0.05 percent

* Based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. Number not shown.

Figure 3.1
Population Pyramid of Pakistan

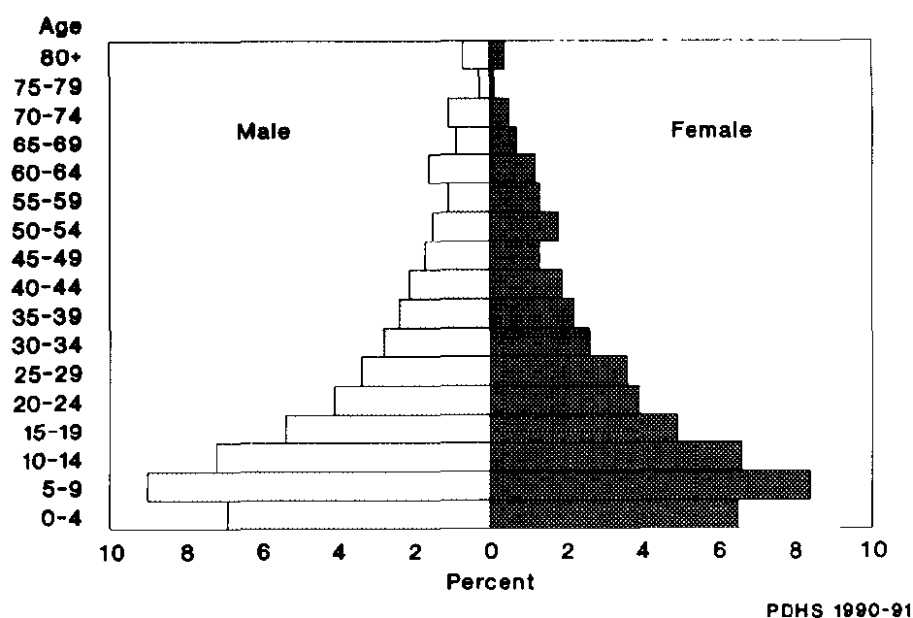


Table 3.3 Population by age from selected sources

Percent distribution of the population by age group,
1990-91 PDHS, 1984-85 PCPS and 1981 census

Age	1990-91 PDHS	1984-85 PCPS	1981 census
0-4	13.4	16.4	15.3
5-9	17.4	16.3	16.0
10-14	13.7	12.8	13.2
15-19	10.2	10.1	9.5
20-24	8.1	8.0	7.6
25-29	7.1	6.9	6.7
30-34	5.4	5.3	5.6
35-39	4.6	4.9	5.1
40-44	4.0	4.1	4.7
45-49	3.0	3.2	3.7
50-54	3.2	3.1	3.6
55-59	2.4	2.3	2.0
60-64	2.7	2.6	2.7
65-69	1.7	1.3	1.2
70-74	1.7	1.3	1.4
75 and over	1.6	1.4	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Original data from Pakistan Contraceptive
Prevalence Survey; Population Census Organisation
(1984)

The overall distribution of the population by age is quite similar to that of the 1981 census and previous demographic surveys (see Table 3.3). The percentage of the population below age five, however, is smaller in the PDHS than in the other sources. This shift in age composition can be attributed partly to a reduction in fertility levels in the recent past. However, some of this shift is due to the omission of young children and displacement in their ages, particularly in rural areas (see the discussion of omission and age displacement in Chapter 4). It is interesting to note that despite substantial differences among the three sources in the first three age categories, the percentage of the total population that is under age 15 years of age is exactly the same (44.5 percent) in the 1981 census and in the PDHS.

3.3 Marital Status

The PDHS gathered information on the marital status of all household members age 15 and over. Examination of the marital status data for the de facto population (see Table 3.4) reveals a consistent picture,

Table 3.4 Household population by age, sex and marital status							
Percent distribution of the de facto household population by marital status, according to age and sex, Pakistan 1990-91							
MALE							
Age group	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced/separated	Missing	Total	Number
15-19	93.8	3.5	0.0	0.0	2.6	100.0	2448
20-24	75.3	23.1	0.4	0.0	1.2	100.0	1883
25-29	38.7	59.4	0.9	0.3	0.7	100.0	1561
30-34	15.1	82.2	1.6	0.5	0.6	100.0	1269
35-39	7.6	90.8	1.1	0.5	--	100.0	1083
40-44	2.8	93.3	2.5	1.4	--	100.0	951
45-49	2.0	93.4	3.7	1.0	--	100.0	766
50-54	2.1	92.8	4.5	0.6	--	100.0	678
55-59	1.8	93.3	4.6	--	0.3	100.0	506
60-64	0.7	87.8	11.1	0.3	0.1	100.0	708
65+	1.0	78.2	19.3	0.9	0.5	100.0	1398
Total	35.3	59.5	3.8	0.4	0.9	100.0	13265
FEMALE							
Age group	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced/separated	Missing	Total	Number
15-19	78.1	18.4	0.3	0.2	3.0	100.0	2219
20-24	39.4	59.7	0.1	0.6	0.2	100.0	1798
25-29	11.8	86.0	0.9	1.0	0.4	100.0	1669
30-34	3.8	93.2	1.5	1.6	--	100.0	1207
35-39	2.0	93.1	3.9	0.9	--	100.0	996
40-44	2.3	92.7	4.6	0.3	--	100.0	871
45-49	2.0	90.5	7.3	0.2	--	100.0	602
50-54	0.7	81.8	15.5	2.0	0.1	100.0	805
55-59	0.3	77.3	21.4	0.7	0.2	100.0	597
60-64	0.5	72.1	26.2	0.1	1.1	100.0	528
65+	0.3	48.1	48.9	0.3	2.4	100.0	839
Total	22.6	67.8	8.0	0.7	0.9	100.0	12143
Note: Total includes 14 males and 10 females whose age is unknown.							
-- Less than 0.05 percent							

relative to previous surveys, with regard to the universality of marriage for both males and females. Almost all females get married by their early thirties and males by their early forties. However, women tend to get married much earlier than men. For example, 60 percent of women age 20-24 are currently married but only 23 percent of men in that age group are married. Females exhibit an earlier transition than males to widowhood or to being divorced or separated. This finding is consistent with the cultural norm which permits the remarriage of widowed or divorced men but discourages the remarriage of women. The earlier transition of women to widowhood is also due to the age difference between husbands and wives and to higher male mortality in the older age groups. Nearly half of all women age 65 and over are widows, whereas only 19 percent of men in that age group are widowers.

3.4 Educational Attainment

The level of educational attainment in a society is an important indicator of social development. Moreover, education is considered to be a major factor underlying social status. Educational attainment has also been shown to have a significant effect on fertility behaviour, contraceptive use, infant and child mortality, morbidity and issues related to family health and hygiene. Table 3.5 presents the distribution of the household population age five and over by level of education, according to sex, age, place of residence and province.

Education has been one of the few neglected sectors which has not caught up with the growing population in Pakistan. Table 3.5 shows that 43 percent of males and 68 percent of females have never attended school. Overall, less than one-third of males (30 percent) and one-fifth of females (20 percent) have attended only primary school, while 16 percent of males and 7 percent of females were reported to have reached secondary school or higher. On average, males have completed 3.2 years of schooling, whereas females have completed only 1.6 years. The data indicate that males receive much more education than females. Such differentials are more prominent at higher levels of education. Men are 50 percent more likely than women to have attended only primary school, twice as likely to have attended middle school without going on to secondary school, and 2.3 times as likely to have attended secondary school or higher education.

The differentials in level of education according to age group provide an indication of the development in the educational attainment of the population over time. A steadily increasing percentage of both males and females have attended school and the increases are particularly dramatic at the secondary level of education and above. The sex differential in educational attainment continues to be significant for all ages, with little indication that the gap is decreasing, except in the youngest age group.

The findings further indicate that one-half of males (51 percent) and four-fifths of females (79 percent) in rural areas have received no education. Among both males and females, the relative urban-rural differentials are most pronounced at the highest educational level. The median and mean number of years of schooling are slightly higher in major cities than in other urban areas. The urban-rural difference is undoubtedly due to a lack of facilities or their inaccessibility in rural areas, while male-female differentials could be attributed to cultural norms and the social constraints faced by women. Punjab and Sindh have relatively low percentages of females who have received no education, while in NWFP and Balochistan more than 80 percent of females have never been to school. The level of educational attainment is much higher for males than for females in all provinces, but the disparity is particularly striking in NWFP.

The PDHS also asked about the current status of school attendance for all persons under age 25. Table 3.6 presents the percentage of the de facto male and female population (age 6-24) who are enrolled in school by age, sex and place of residence. Overall, more than half (54 percent) of all school age children (age 6-15) were currently enrolled in school; the figures were 64 percent for males and 44 percent for females. The enrolment rate is much higher in major cities (75 percent) than in rural areas (46 percent) (see Figure 3.2).

Table 3.5 Educational level of household population

Percent distribution of the de facto male and female household population age five and over by highest level of education attended, according to selected background characteristics, Pakistan 1990-91

MALE									
Background characteristic	No education	Primary	Middle	Secondary+	Missing	Total	Number of persons	Median years	Mean years
Age group									
5-9	44.4	54.8	0.4	--	0.4	100.0	4102	0.7	0.6
10-14	23.8	51.4	20.0	4.5	0.3	100.0	3274	3.6	3.2
15-19	28.4	17.8	20.8	32.6	0.3	100.0	2448	6.3	5.3
20-24	33.9	19.1	13.2	33.5	0.3	100.0	1883	5.7	5.4
25-29	39.7	20.7	12.4	27.1	0.1	100.0	1561	5.2	4.8
30-34	45.5	16.7	11.3	26.0	0.4	100.0	1269	4.4	4.4
35-39	44.7	17.1	10.2	27.7	0.3	100.0	1083	4.5	4.5
40-44	50.6	20.2	8.1	20.9	0.2	100.0	951	0.0	3.8
45-49	54.3	14.3	8.7	22.3	0.4	100.0	766	0.0	3.7
50-54	61.6	15.9	6.1	16.0	0.4	100.0	678	0.0	2.9
55-59	64.6	17.2	6.1	11.4	0.8	100.0	505	0.0	2.4
60-64	73.8	11.3	5.6	9.3	0.1	100.0	708	0.0	1.8
65+	80.1	9.3	5.0	5.2	0.4	100.0	1398	0.0	1.3
Residence									
Total urban	26.9	29.8	13.7	29.4	0.3	100.0	6535	5.0	5.0
Major city	27.0	27.0	13.4	32.3	0.2	100.0	3772	5.2	5.2
Other urban	26.7	33.5	14.0	25.6	0.3	100.0	2763	4.7	4.6
Rural	50.7	29.8	9.3	9.8	0.4	100.0	14106	0.0	2.4
Province									
Punjab	40.8	30.2	12.0	16.9	0.1	100.0	12330	1.8	3.4
Sindh	44.0	31.5	7.8	16.0	0.7	100.0	4962	1.0	3.2
NWFP	46.7	27.6	11.0	14.4	0.2	100.0	2597	1.0	3.0
Balochistan	63.4	20.8	6.6	7.1	2.0	100.0	752	0.0	1.7
Total	43.1	29.8	10.7	16.0	0.3	100.0	20641	1.3	3.2
FEMALE									
Background characteristic	No education	Primary	Middle	Secondary+	Missing	Total	Number of persons	Median years	Mean years
Age group									
5-9	58.7	40.7	0.1	--	0.4	100.0	3840	0.0	0.4
10-14	48.5	35.5	12.4	3.2	0.5	100.0	2998	1.0	2.1
15-19	54.9	15.5	10.5	18.9	0.2	100.0	2219	0.0	3.2
20-24	63.9	13.6	6.4	16.1	0.1	100.0	1798	0.0	2.8
25-29	72.0	10.0	5.0	12.9	--	100.0	1669	0.0	2.2
30-34	75.3	10.4	4.0	9.5	0.7	100.0	1207	0.0	1.8
35-39	79.0	9.1	4.8	6.9	0.2	100.0	996	0.0	1.5
40-44	83.4	7.0	3.3	6.0	0.3	100.0	871	0.0	1.2
45-49	86.3	6.5	2.8	3.4	1.0	100.0	602	0.0	0.9
50-54	93.0	3.0	1.9	1.7	0.4	100.0	805	0.0	0.5
55-59	92.8	3.9	1.5	1.0	0.7	100.0	597	0.0	0.4
60-64	94.5	1.8	1.3	1.6	0.9	100.0	528	0.0	0.3
65+	95.3	2.2	0.3	0.9	1.4	100.0	839	0.0	0.2
Residence									
Total urban	42.8	28.4	10.5	18.0	0.3	100.0	6126	1.5	3.4
Major city	37.6	28.9	11.6	21.6	0.3	100.0	3511	2.8	4.0
Other urban	49.9	27.6	9.0	13.2	0.2	100.0	2615	0.9	2.7
Rural	79.4	15.8	2.6	1.6	0.5	100.0	12855	0.0	0.7
Province									
Punjab	63.7	22.2	6.1	7.7	0.2	100.0	11389	0.0	1.8
Sindh	66.2	20.2	4.6	8.2	0.8	100.0	4345	0.0	1.7
NWFP	81.6	12.2	3.0	2.9	0.3	100.0	2570	0.0	0.8
Balochistan	88.5	7.1	1.4	1.2	1.8	100.0	676	0.0	0.4
Total	67.6	19.9	5.2	6.9	0.4	100.0	18981	0.0	1.6

Note: Excludes 14 males and 10 females whose age is unknown.

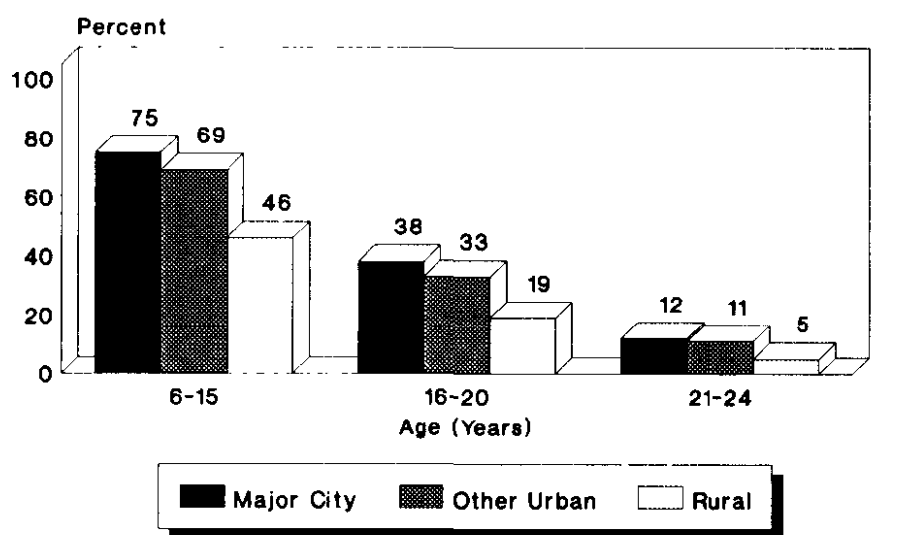
-- Less than 0.05 percent

Table 3.6 School enrolment

Percentage of the de facto household population 6-24 years of age currently enrolled in school by age, sex and urban-rural residence, Pakistan 1990-91

Age group	Male					Female					Total				
	Total	Major	Other	Rural	Total	Total	Major	Other	Rural	Total	Total	Major	Other	Rural	Total
	urban	city	urban			urban	city	urban			urban	city	urban		
6-15	76.3	75.8	76.9	58.6	63.8	68.1	73.3	61.9	31.9	43.6	72.2	74.6	69.2	46.1	54.1
6-10	78.1	77.9	78.4	56.8	62.6	71.7	75.5	67.1	33.2	44.8	74.9	76.7	72.7	45.7	54.1
11-15	74.1	73.4	75.0	61.4	65.5	63.8	70.6	55.8	29.8	41.8	68.9	72.0	65.1	46.8	54.2
16-20	40.8	41.5	39.8	32.4	35.4	31.2	35.1	24.8	5.4	14.3	36.1	38.3	32.8	19.0	25.0
21-24	15.4	15.9	14.6	8.6	11.1	7.2	8.1	5.7	1.9	3.9	11.6	12.2	10.5	5.4	7.7

Figure 3.2
School Enrolment by Age
and Place of Residence



PDHS 1990-91

Since the concentration of the population is relatively high in urban areas, there is a greater incentive for both public and private agencies to invest in setting up schools. The increased school enrolment in urban areas is likely to be a function of the greater availability and easy accessibility of educational institutions in general as well as higher educational aspirations for children in urban areas.

At age 16-20, one in four children was still attending school. By age 21-24, fewer than one in ten was still in school. Table 3.6 shows the greater enrolment of male than female children at all ages. The sex differentials in enrolment are more pronounced in rural areas, and to some extent in small cities and towns, but nearly disappear in major cities. The sex differentials in enrolment increase with age, which at least partially reflects the greater dropout rate for female children.

3.5 Housing Characteristics

Selected housing characteristics are shown in Table 3.7 for households with at least one eligible woman who completed the interview. Electricity is nearly universal in urban areas (96 percent) while less than half of rural households (47 percent) were reported to have electricity. Overall, 61 percent of all households have electricity.

The questionnaire included information on the source of drinking water for the household. A safe, accessible source of drinking water is important for the health and welfare of household members. Table 3.7 shows that only 18 percent of all households have water piped inside their houses and 9 percent have water piped onto their property. In total, more than 90 percent of all households in major cities have access to running piped water. Piped water is available to only 63 percent of households in other urban areas and 15 percent of households in rural areas. In rural areas, nearly 70 percent of households obtain their drinking water from wells and tubewells, while 13 percent rely on rivers, canals and karezes for their drinking water.

The use of different types of sanitation facilities varies greatly by place of residence. About 90 percent of all households in major cities have flush toilets in their houses compared to 55 percent in other urban areas.² In contrast, the toilet facilities in rural areas are quite rudimentary. Seventy-two percent of rural households have no toilet facility at all and an additional 22 percent have only a pit latrine or a bucket.

One of the more important socioeconomic indicators for survey households is the quality of their housing, as measured by the construction material of the walls and roofs. More than 92 percent of households in major cities have baked brick and cement walls, compared to only two-thirds of households in other urban areas. In contrast, 60 percent of rural households live in houses with mud or unbaked brick walls and about 16 percent of their houses have wooden or bamboo walls. Similarly, a large majority of households in major cities (73 percent) live in houses with roofs made of concrete or T-irons or wood with bricks. Fifty-eight percent of households in other urban areas live in houses which have the same type of roofing materials. The other extreme is reported in rural households, where the roofs of houses are made primarily of wood or bamboo (72 percent). At the national level, a little more than one-third of households live in houses with cement and baked brick walls and roofs made with concrete or bricks with T-irons.

Finally, the number of persons per room used for sleeping was calculated as a measure of crowding. At the national level, only 20 percent of households have 1-2 persons per room and 37 percent of households have 3-4 persons sleeping in one room. At the other extreme, 20 percent of households have seven or more persons sleeping in one room. On the average, five persons sleep in one room. The degree of crowding was nearly as great in urban areas as in rural areas.

² Flush toilets are defined as toilets in which water is carried down waste pipes, whether the water is piped into the toilet or poured in by buckets.

Table 3.7 Housing characteristics

Percent distribution of households with eligible women by housing characteristics, according to urban-rural residence, Pakistan 1990-91

Housing characteristic	Total urban	Major city	Other urban	Rural	Total
Electricity					
Yes	95.7	98.1	92.5	46.6	61.4
No	4.3	1.9	7.5	53.4	38.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Source of drinking water					
Piped into residence	48.1	58.5	34.1	5.5	18.3
Piped onto property	20.3	20.1	20.6	4.4	9.2
Public tap	11.2	13.4	8.1	5.4	7.1
Well with pump, tubewell	15.5	4.7	30.0	55.1	43.2
Well without hand pump	2.2	0.7	4.2	13.5	10.1
River, canal, karez	0.9	0.8	1.1	12.5	9.0
Tanker, vendor	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4
Rainwater	--	--	--	0.9	0.6
Other	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.6
Missing	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sanitation facility					
Flush	74.5	89.3	54.6	5.8	26.5
Bucket	14.4	6.2	25.4	10.0	11.3
Pit latrine	4.4	2.8	6.5	11.5	9.3
Other	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.3
No facilities	6.0	1.1	12.6	71.9	52.1
Missing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Material of walls					
Baked bricks, cement	81.1	92.4	65.9	19.2	37.8
Unbaked bricks, mud	16.3	6.9	28.9	60.0	46.9
Wood/bamboo	2.3	0.6	4.7	15.7	11.6
Other	0.3	0.1	0.5	5.1	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Material of roof					
RCC/RBC	45.0	57.8	27.9	4.1	16.4
T-Iron/wood/brick	21.5	15.2	29.9	19.5	20.1
Asbestos/iron sheets	10.6	16.7	2.4	3.6	5.7
Wood/bamboo	22.8	10.2	39.6	72.2	57.3
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons per sleeping room					
1-2	21.6	22.4	20.5	19.3	20.0
3-4	39.6	39.2	40.1	36.1	37.2
5-6	20.6	21.3	19.6	23.9	22.9
7 +	18.1	17.1	19.6	20.4	19.7
Missing/Don't know	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.7
Number of households	1633	936	698	3796	5429

-- Less than 0.05 percent

3.6 Presence of Household Durable Goods

In order to obtain additional information on the socioeconomic status of households, household respondents were asked if specific household goods were present in their homes. Table 3.8 shows that 35 percent of all households in Pakistan have a radio and a little more than one-quarter (27 percent) have a television. As expected, both these items show large differentials between urban and rural areas, but the differential for televisions is particularly prominent.

Table 3.8 Household durable goods

Percentage of households possessing various durable consumer goods, by urban-rural residence, Pakistan 1990-91

Item	Total urban	Major city	Other urban	Rural	Total
Radio	51.9	58.4	43.2	28.3	35.4
Television	64.2	74.7	50.1	10.9	27.0
Refrigerator	37.6	46.3	26.0	4.0	14.1
Room cooler	13.2	13.0	13.5	1.2	4.8
Washing machine	43.4	50.2	34.2	2.9	15.1
Water pump	23.0	21.5	25.0	3.2	9.2
Bicycle	39.9	34.4	47.2	31.4	33.9
Motorcycle	17.6	21.4	12.5	3.3	7.6
Car, van or tractor	6.4	7.1	5.5	3.8	4.6
Number of households	1633	936	698	3796	5429

Refrigerators, room coolers, and washing machines are all concentrated in urban areas. Only a few households in rural areas reported owning any of these items. Bicycles are the most commonly owned means of transport in all areas. At the national level, 34 percent of all households own at least one bicycle. About 8 percent of all households have a motorcycle, but motorcycles are more common in major cities (21 percent). Less than five percent of households own a car, a van or a tractor.

3.7 Background Characteristics of Female Respondents

Women were eligible for the individual interview if they were ever married, age 15-49, and stayed in the household the night before the household interview was conducted. Eligible women were asked their age, marital status, educational level, place of residence, work status and physical mobility, in addition to many other questions on demographic and health status. Table 3.9 presents information on the background characteristics of all 6,611 eligible women who were interviewed. More than half of these women (57 percent) were in the 20-34 age group, with the largest number in age 25-29. The age distribution of currently married women in their childbearing years from four sources is compared in Figure 3.3. The PDHS age distribution is closest to the age distribution for the PCPS. The relatively low proportion of currently married women age 15-24 in the PDHS is consistent with the evidence that the average age of marriage in Pakistan has been rising over time.

A large majority of ever-married women (96 percent) were currently married and only a negligible proportion were either widowed, divorced or separated. About 80 percent of women had never attended school and only 7 percent were educated up to the secondary or higher levels. Almost 70 percent of women were residents of rural areas, 17 percent resided in major cities and the rest were located in other urban areas. A majority of respondents (60 percent) were from Punjab, 23 percent were from Sindh, 13 percent from NWFP and 4 percent from Balochistan.

The norm in Pakistan is for women to stay home and take care of the house and the children. It is not common for women to join the labor market and their mobility is often restricted. In the PDHS, only 17 percent of women were reported to be currently working at the time of the survey and an additional 4 percent had worked only before marriage. Three-quarters of all women stated that they had never worked. To gauge the extent of their physical mobility, women were asked whether they would need to be accompanied by someone if they needed to go to a hospital or clinic for medical treatment. While one-quarter of women reported that they could go to a hospital alone, 71 percent reported that they would need to be accompanied by someone. The restriction on their physical mobility can be explained partly by cultural norms. An alternative hypothesis is that women usually do not seek medical treatment for minor illnesses and they leave the house only when their illness has become serious. Under these circumstances, they would need to be accompanied to go to a hospital.

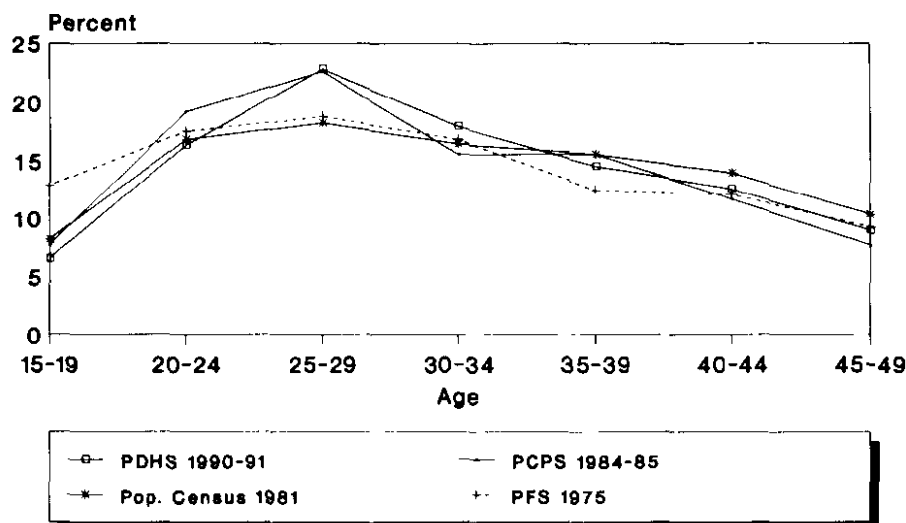
Table 3.9 Background characteristics of female respondents

Percent distribution of ever-married women by background characteristics, Pakistan 1990-91

Background characteristic	Weighted percent	Weighted number of women	Unweighted number of women
Age			
15-19	6.5	428	407
20-24	16.0	1059	1064
25-29	22.6	1494	1469
30-34	18.0	1187	1200
35-39	14.8	981	1031
40-44	12.8	844	820
45-49	9.3	617	620
Marital status			
Married	96.3	6364	6393
Widowed	2.4	159	148
Divorced	0.3	22	19
Separated	1.0	65	51
Residence			
Total urban	30.5	2019	3384
Major city	17.4	1151	1820
Other urban	13.1	868	1564
Rural	69.5	4592	3227
Province			
Punjab	59.7	3948	2207
Sindh	23.1	1529	1798
NWFP	13.3	878	1665
Balochistan	3.9	255	941
Education level attended			
No education	79.2	5237	5055
Primary	9.1	601	600
Middle	4.4	288	320
Secondary	6.2	410	522
Higher	1.1	75	114
Work status			
Currently working	16.8	1111	1057
Worked only before marriage	4.4	290	292
Worked only after marriage	0.7	44	52
Worked before and after marriage	1.1	72	74
Never worked ¹	76.7	5073	5111
Missing	0.3	21	25
Mobility			
Could go to hospital alone	25.1	1660	1699
Would need to be accompanied	70.8	4682	4441
Depends or missing	4.1	269	471
Total	100.0	6611	6611

¹"Never worked" means that the woman is not currently working and she did not work either before marriage or just after marriage.

Figure 3.3
Distribution of Currently Married Women
by Age, Pakistan, 1975-1991



Source: Population Welfare Division (1986)

In Table 3.10, variations in the level of education by age group, place and province of residence, and work status are examined. In all age groups, no less than three-quarters of women reported that they had never attended school. In general, younger women were more likely to have attended school than older women. A comparison of educational attainment as measured by the 1975 PFS and the PDHS confirms that levels of educational achievement for women have been increasing over time.

Even among women residing in major cities, 48 percent had no education and only one-quarter had attended a secondary school or a higher level of education. At the other extreme, 90 percent of women from rural areas had no education and only 1 percent had attended secondary school. The provincial educational pattern follows the general pattern of development. Punjab and Sindh, which are more developed, have a lower percentage of women who had no education and 8-9 percent had attended secondary school or gone beyond secondary school. In Balochistan, 96 percent of women had no education and only 1 percent had reached secondary school.

Women who were currently working were the least educated group. Eighty-four percent of working women had never been to school and only seven percent had some secondary or higher education. The highest average level of education was exhibited by those who worked only before marriage or both before and after marriage. Those who worked just after marriage also had a relatively high level of education: 13 percent reported that they had attended secondary school or a higher level of education.

Table 3.10 Level of education

Percent distribution of ever-married women by the highest level of education attended, according to selected background characteristics, Pakistan 1990-91

Background characteristic	No education	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher	Total	Number
Age							
15-19	81.0	10.9	3.6	4.2	0.2	100.0	428
20-24	75.3	12.6	5.1	5.9	1.0	100.0	1059
25-29	75.7	8.7	5.6	8.8	1.1	100.0	1494
30-34	77.7	9.2	4.0	7.5	1.6	100.0	1187
35-39	79.8	8.8	4.2	5.8	1.4	100.0	981
40-44	84.0	7.2	3.4	4.3	1.1	100.0	844
45-49	88.5	5.4	2.7	2.5	0.8	100.0	617
Residence							
Total urban	55.0	14.8	9.1	17.5	3.6	100.0	2019
Major city	47.7	15.7	10.6	20.7	5.3	100.0	1151
Other urban	64.6	13.6	7.1	13.3	1.5	100.0	868
Rural	89.9	6.6	2.3	1.2	--	100.0	4592
Province							
Punjab	76.5	10.3	5.2	6.7	1.3	100.0	3948
Sindh	76.8	10.2	3.8	7.9	1.3	100.0	1529
NWFP	90.6	4.0	2.4	2.7	0.3	100.0	878
Balochistan	96.3	1.9	0.6	1.0	0.2	100.0	255
Work status¹							
Currently working	84.3	5.8	3.0	5.1	1.8	100.0	1111
Worked only before marriage	64.2	11.6	6.3	13.5	4.4	100.0	290
Worked only after marriage	74.0	9.1	3.8	12.4	0.6	100.0	44
Worked before & after marriage	63.9	15.1	4.8	7.1	9.1	100.0	72
Never worked ²	79.2	9.6	4.6	6.0	0.7	100.0	5073
Total	79.2	9.1	4.4	6.2	1.1	100.0	6611

-- Less than 0.05 percent

¹Excludes 21 women with missing information on work status.

²"Never worked" means that the woman is not currently working and she did not work either before marriage or just after marriage.

3.8 Exposure to Mass Media

As an indicator of exposure to mass media, each woman interviewed was asked whether she usually reads a newspaper, watches television, or listens to radio at least once a week. Table 3.11 shows that 14 percent of women read a newspaper weekly, 30 percent watch TV and 27 percent listen to radio.

As expected, there is a close association between the level of education and exposure to the three types of media. The low level of exposure to radio and TV among uneducated women may be explained by their lack of access to these facilities. There is also a large differential in media exposure between urban and

rural women. Women in major cities are more likely to watch TV (78 percent) than to read newspapers (43 percent) or listen to the radio (47 percent). In contrast, rural women listen to radio (21 percent) more than they watch TV (13 percent) or read newspapers (5 percent). Women from small cities or towns follow a pattern similar to women from major cities, however exposure to all forms of media is the highest in major cities.

Women in Sindh are more exposed to all types of media than women in other provinces. Women in Punjab have a pattern of media exposure similar to the national pattern. More than four times as many women in NWFP are exposed to radio and TV as are exposed to newspapers, while Balochi women are most often exposed to radio. In general, Balochi women have the least access to these media, perhaps because of a lack of media facilities in Balochistan and because of the large geographical area over which the population is dispersed.

Table 3.11 Exposure to mass media

Percentage of ever-married women who usually read a newspaper, watch television, or listen to radio at least once a week by selected background characteristics, Pakistan 1990-91

Background characteristic	Read newspaper weekly	Watch TV weekly	Listen to radio weekly	Number of women
Age				
15-19	11.0	24.8	31.8	428
20-24	14.9	28.8	30.3	1059
25-29	17.3	30.2	29.3	1494
30-34	14.7	30.5	26.5	1187
35-39	14.8	31.7	26.6	981
40-44	10.1	30.6	22.0	844
45-49	8.7	28.9	21.9	617
Residence				
Total urban	34.1	67.5	41.1	2019
Major city	42.6	77.9	46.5	1151
Other urban	22.7	53.6	34.0	868
Rural	5.1	13.3	20.9	4592
Province				
Punjab	14.4	29.1	26.3	3948
Sindh	19.6	40.2	33.1	1529
NWFP	5.4	21.5	23.8	878
Balochistan	2.8	7.3	15.0	255
Education level attended				
No education	1.8	18.8	21.5	5237
Primary	43.1	57.8	43.1	601
Middle	65.9	70.4	50.4	288
Secondary	75.8	88.0	53.1	410
Higher	93.8	99.5	59.4	75
Total	13.9	29.8	27.1	6611

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