



The theme of this quarter's newsletter is "population"; population is generally perceived as a subject related only to family planning, although, it is a much broader sector that has wide socio-economic implications.

It is of immense importance for policy planners to recognize the need to incorporate and integrate population related facts especially in designing social sector policies. Whether it is health, education, environment or economic planning, population issues play a crucial role in the planning process.

For developing countries like Pakistan, rapid population growth is among the leading problems that need to be addressed for any sustainable development endeavors. It is an issue, which involves all segments of the society regardless of age, sex, caste or creed. This AGEHI newsletter attempts to look at population issues from various angles and perceptions to highlight the subject in an analytical manner.

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## Pakistan

Population	142.5	Million
Rank in the World	7th	
Growth Rate	2.1	Percent
Doubling Time	33	Years
Per Capita Income	429	US\$
Births	8	per Minute
Deaths	2	per Minute
Net Addition	6	per Minute
Total Fertility Rate	4.8	
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	30	Percent
Infant Mortality Rate	85	(Per 1,000 live Births)
Maternal Mortality Rate	350	(Per 100,000 live Births)
Human Development Index	135	Rank in the World
Gender Related Development Index	115	Rank in the World
Population Below Poverty Line	12	Percent

Source: NIPS, July, 2001; Human Development Report, UNDP, 2000.

# SACHET

Promoting Human Development

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## Editorial

## Gender, Population &amp; Pakistan

The International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) held in Cairo and the chain of events leading up to it can be confidently labeled as a major shift in the agenda on Population policy from reduction in growth rate to realizing the Reproductive Health needs of men, women & adolescents. Family Planning services are an essential part of RH care. Following the global biased approach, men were effectively excluded from the FP Program in Pakistan that is now recognized as the 7th most populous country on this planet. In spite of being a signatory to the ICPD' 94, the commitment to the Cairo Ideals is yet to be reflected in its 40-year old program. Women (and that too only married and in reproductive age) in Pakistan were and still are "targeted" in FP Programs. The male role in the perspective of ICPD' 94 is barely visible in the FP Program. In a workshop conducted by an International Donor Agency in Pakistan, working groups were asked to create a definition of an ideal male partner. The ideal male partner created was that of a man who loves his family, is sharing, caring, honest and faithful and is able to make informed decisions with his partner's inputs. Searching this "Superman" would be a futile exercise in a patriarchal society where traditional gender roles and rules can jeopardize communication between spouses on family planning. The demand of the changing times is to accept and acknowledge the contemporary realities and design strategies accordingly. A point of caution for all government agencies and NGOs is not to become obsessed by the Target Syndrome but to adopt a Need-Oriented approach with a human face in all the actions aimed to control population growth rate in Pakistan.

**Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen**

## Guest Editorial

## Psychological Aspect of Population Growth

The population explosion is one single factor, which is going to have major impact on our lives in years to come. Present world population is six billion and increasing at the rate of 2-3 percent annually. Europe and developed countries are facing a problem of all time low population growth while developing countries are not able to harness their growth rate. The United Nation projection for Pakistan is alarming 345 million by the year 2050.

The variables which influences the attitude towards age, gender and reproductive behavior are awareness, education and socio-economic stage of development. The social, moral and religious factors determine the psychological make up and acceptable norms.

The appearance of AIDS has introduced some urgency to address the issues of gender, sex and morality. A comprehensive awareness program to reach the grass root level is much too overdue.

SACHET's undertaking in the field of gender discrimination and planned parent hood is likely to provide a framework for meaningful future activities.

Prof. Dr. S. Haroon Ahmed  
Hon. Executive Director  
Institute of Behavioral Sciences, Karachi-Pakistan.  
(Hon. Member, Board of Directors, SACHET)

**Mrs. Zubaida Jalal**

**The Federal Education Minister**

I am delighted to learn that the Society for the Advancement of Community, Health, Education and Training (SACHET) is taking out a Newsletter. I am aware of the fact that SACHET is already doing valuable community services. Publishing a newsletter on a pre-selected theme is not only informative, but will also serve the general purpose of awareness, sensitization and positive attitude formation. I am aware of the achievements of SACHET for service to humanity and promotional endeavors for human development. The activity for creating gender sensitization, especially for the neglected segment of the society, women and children requires appreciation and acknowledgment.

I myself being a strong advocate of gender equality have tried to contribute to the cause of education and health especially for women and children in the remote rural areas of the country. I have advised Ministry of Education to take into consideration the basic themes of highlighting gender roles and responsibilities, provision of educational facilities to all with special emphasis on girl child and promoting general awareness on basic health and nutritional aspects. This is being done through different endeavours initiated by the Ministry in the areas of curriculum and material development, teacher training and basic literacy programmes. The endeavours of government because of limited resources always need to be supplemented by organizations such as SACHET. As these days, focus is on effective private public partnership, I look forward to a collaborative effort between the government and service-oriented organizations like SACHET.

I wish every success to SACHET, its energetic and ever willing members especially its President in all its new endeavors.

**Dr. Abdul Malik Kasi**

**The Federal Health Minister**

I am pleased to learn that Society for Advancement of Community, Health, Education and Training has taken the initiative of starting AGEHI, an Information Resource Center to advocate for gender sensitization, education and health promotion through dissemination of information.

Islam was the first religion to grant rights to women raising their status. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was himself a beacon for granting equal rights to women, treating them with respect, honor and dignity, in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

In the field of health, we are beset with many challenges including socio-cultural barriers, inadequate access to antenatal and emergency obstetric care and high rate of illiteracy. This leads to high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity.

The present Government has taken a number of important initiatives to further promote health, through its six key programs viz. National Program for Family Planning and Primary Health Care, Expanded Program of Immunization, TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition Program. The National Health Policy emphasizes promotion of greater gender equity in the health sector. It gives priority to the improvement of Reproductive Health Services including Maternal and Child Health Services.

Government has launched an ADB assisted Women Health Project in 20 districts of four provinces for promotion of Women's Health and Nutrition, Education, Skilled Delivery Care, Emergency Obstetric Care to target 14.9 million rural population, to benefit 2.4 million women of reproductive age.

The thrust of the present Government is on preventive as against curative aspects of health, with more focus on mother and child health and integration of health and population sector programs. We recognize that in these important areas, there is great scope for promoting Public-Private Sector Partnership. Good examples are the best way of furthering this cause.

I wish SACHET and its resource center success in its endeavors to carry forward its laudable agenda.



The first issue "AGEHI" by SACHET is an attractive and informative newsletter on gender, education & health information in Pakistan. The quality of presentation is iridescent and contents are aptly educating & impressive.

As long as it is an "informal" newsletter, it contains enormous potential of its popularity and enhanced circulation. The most conspicuous feature of the Newsletter is the interview of Dr. M. S. Jillani, the living legend of our times in Pakistan. Dr. Jillani's observations on planning, demography and social sector are very thought provocative for young professionals, including mature readers & professionals alike.

The newsletter is a great effort in the right direction. The effort will be acknowledged as being done under the editorial supervision of Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen and under the patronage of Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI), the benefactor of Muslim Ummah. We wish the editorial staff of "AGEHI" every success in their efforts.

**Nawazish Ali Khan Asim**

**Program Officer-Social**

**National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW).**

In the body of time we have started feeling the pulse for importance of man; the term man is usually misinterpreted, it is only taken as male, neglecting the other half of the mass-female.

We need practical steps to accept and feel their worth, as they are dynamic cogs in the machine of life.

In social horizon of Pakistan we can see a new bright star called

SACHET. Channelizing its power to awareness about gender, health, economic information & education rights. This power channelization is tracked by AGEHI, with focus on gender issues. It's a new born resource center with the capability of growing in to a well-framed gender research resource center. This end will soon be met due to the talented & cooperative team at the center. We hope that in near future it will become a role model in itself.

**Ms. Faiza**

**Lecturer of Geography, Islamabad Model College for Girls**

**F-7/4, Islamabad**

**August 6, 2001**

SACHET deserves appreciation for having accomplished a distinguished initiative by presenting TV program Gender Watch which was first for similar organizations in Pakistan.

**Mian Shafiq ur Rehman**

**Resource & Research Development Unit**

**Global Development Program, Bannu Cannt, (NWFP)**

It would be our great pleasure to have regular copies of AGEHI News letter & other publications by your organization, as a noble gesture of goodwill in the sacred cause of dissemination of Knowledge.

**Hussain Amir**

**Honourary Secretary General**

**Mohammed Bin Qasim Library**

**Sujawal, Distt. Thatta**

### Female Sexuality in Muslim Societies

There is generally a dearth of literature on sexuality in Muslim societies. But in case of female sexuality, it is a rarity. This gap has been filled to an extent by a worthy publication of the Women For Women's Human Rights (WWHR), an NGO from Turkey. *Kadinin Irsan Halklari Projesi* strives mainly for the empowerment of women and women's human rights organizations; creation of consciousness among the public about women's rights and their violation, and mobilisation of opinion in favour of women's rights at the national and international levels. The volume under review, edited by Pinar Ilkcaracan, is the compilation of writings about female sexuality by women from different walks of life in selected muslim countries. It is apparent that the selection has been made, keeping in view the salient aspects of women's life in muslim societies, influence of diverse local conditions, and varying cultures and traditions in different parts of the Muslim World. As such, the compilation sheds light on the condition of women in different milieus amply enforcing the universal tendency of keeping women's sexuality under pressure in order to establish the supremacy of patriarchal system.

The significance of the study lies in the treatment of a highly sensitive subject for muslim societies, objectively and with remarkable candor. This affords the reader a picture of the real situation of women, socially, economically and culturally and the mores and norms by which they are subjugated. Articles included in the book, as such, indicate the norms which exacerbate the maltreatment of women within the family, and in the society. The book presents ample evidence to indicate ingrained prejudice against women's display of sexuality and demand for their rights; these feelings turn into willful neglect and violence against women. Even the seemingly pro-women laws are so twisted or interpreted that they favor men.

The study discusses the problems created by noncognisance of female sexuality and hurdles created on the way to women's empowerment and the helplessness of women in traditional societies. The redeeming feature

of various presentations is the factual description as well as academic and legal discussion of various issues facing women. An area of great concern in the Muslim societies, especially those with low literacy and education, is the distortion of religious canons and commands by the clergy and the local elders. Examples of such high-handedness are strewn in all articles from various countries

Honor killing in most cases targeted at women is a highly discriminatory and irrational custom. It has been discussed in detail, in the perspective of various cultures. Although, the problem is deep-rooted and ancient in origin, learned discourse and awareness of the situation should lead to its eradication. Processing of cases of adultery and rape, likewise, needs drastic changes; the book has illustrated the problem, especially in the content of norms prevalent in Turkish society. This should help create a platform against practices which suppress women's sexuality and human rights.

The study has strived to cover all questions related to sexuality of women and their place in society, like the right to love, marriage, lesbianism, genital mutilation, temporary marriages etc. Their discussion points out that the injustice to women is done due to the attitude of males and the laws framed expressly to perpetuate patriarchal society. Much of the deviant sexual behavior among women is born out of the suppression of women's freedom even in intimate matters, and the reprimand for the slightest unconventional act committed by women, while the men are not apprehended for far more serious crimes. Likewise, many of the grievous and harmful rituals like genital mutilation, strict confinement in the garb of *purda*, etc. are also imposed by male dominated societies to keep women under continuous pressure.

The study is a valuable addition to literature about female sexuality and the situation of women in Muslim societies, in most respects. The message carried by the book and WWHR needs to be spread for concrete action in all Muslim countries.

SARAH JAVEED

## Global Science Panel on Population & Environment

International institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) will convene a Global Science Panel on Population and Environment with the immediate goal of producing scientific input on this issue for the Rio +10 World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002. The Science Panel, under the patronage of Dr. Nafis Sadik and Dr. Maurice Strong, will have a membership of 20-25 distinguished scientists from different disciplines and different parts of the world. Participants will be invited jointly by the organizers, which include IIASA and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). This effort will be undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). The secretariat of the Science Panel will be located at IIASA, with Wolfgang Lutz serving as coordinator. Funding has already been secured from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the government of Austria.

The Science Panel's mandate will be to (1) assess the state of our knowledge about the population variable in sustainable development (population-development-environment interactions), (2) develop innovative approaches to overcome the deadlock of old controversies, and (3) create a science-based paradigm for integrating population-related concerns into the sustainable development paradigm, as manifested in the Rio to Rio + 10 processes.

The Science Panel will have a truly international and interdisciplinary basis and will aim to provide direct input to the Rio + 10 and Cairo + 10 UN processes. Given that the Johannesburg Conference will take place during the second half of 2002, the Science Panel will only have an initial duration of one year (with the possibility of extension if deemed appropriate). There will be several meetings, including a broader Science Meeting at IIASA in February/March 2002. After this Meeting, a short synthesis document pointing to promising new directions will be circulated widely for comments. A revised version will serve as substantive input to the international discussion before, at, and after Johannesburg.

(Source: Options, Spring, 2001)

**T**HE FAMILY PLANNING MOVEMENT started as a movement by women for women. Dr. Marie Stopes, who wrote "Wise Parenthood" in 1918 and opened the first clinic in London in March 1921, was not a physician. She had her doctorate in palaeobotany. When Margaret Sanger, her sister Ethel, and a social worker Fania, opened the first clinic in Brooklyn, it was soon raided and the three women got arrested. Released on bail, they reopened the clinic, were rearrested and charged with maintaining a public nuisance.

An excerpt from Dr. Fathalla's Contraception and women's health, published in BMB (1993), VOL 49, No 1, pp 245-251

## Population Week Activities by SACHET

'The Role of men in Family Planning' was the theme of three 'Mehfils' organized by Program Unit of SACHET in three of its Community Development Programs. The 'Assembly of Men' was held on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2001 as a part of SACHET's activities to celebrate World Population Day at Shahdra, Pinyali and Banigala respectively with audience aged below 30 years. Interesting discussions were the hallmark of these Mehfils which included subjects like Islam and Family Planning, issues concerning pregnancy and childbearing and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Based on medical facts, a woman's plight due to 'too many, too close' pregnancies was highlighted to the audience, focusing on the role and responsibility of a male as head of household in a purely Pakistani context. The adolescent audience fully participated in the day's theme, and the discussion continued much longer than anticipated. The audiences were given the option to bring up any question/problem anonymously but nobody was shy and questions regarding sexuality, STDs, RTIs and Contraceptive methods were asked and discussed without hesitation. The audience were also shown videos on 'Gender and Family Planning' and 'Gender and AIDS from SACHET's award winning Tele Project 'Gender Watch'.

An "Assembly of Women" was also held at Shahdra Community Development Program on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2001, sensitizing pregnancy and related issues, STDs, RTIs with a particular focus on AIDS/HIV. The discussion was supplemented by exhibition of the video 'Gender and AIDS'.

The educational background of the participants ranged from middle to graduate level with the majority of audience from

Matriculation to Intermediate. The main feature of the audience at all the places was that majority of them were in the adolescent group. Positive feedback was received from the audience.

One of the interesting questions asked by a participant at Pinyali village was regarding the effect of the difference in husband

& Wife's age on the health of the newborn.

Another interesting question that was asked by a participant aged 20 years, having intermediate level education, was that 'what would be the chance of contracting HIV infection for a man having polygamy (two wives) because he is having multiple sexual relations'.

In these assemblies it was observed that the awareness level regarding different health issues, especially about family planning is very low in the general public. The youth need to know more about reproductive health issues & especially about HIV/AIDS.

*Change!*

*"I really appreciate the community awareness program of SACHET through female Community Workers. What they tell us during their visits to our homes is very informative & helpful. Earlier, my children used to fall ill frequently but now, after getting information from community workers, I know how to prevent diseases and take care of my children in a better manner"*

*(Zulekha Bibi, Female 33, exit interview of the patients at SACHET Clinic Shahdra Village, Islamabad, April 2001)*

(Report by: Dr. Hashim Popalzai & Saleem Baig)

## SEMINAR ON " POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT-THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS"

The seminar on "Population and Environment: The role of Communications" was organized by AGEHI Resource Center of SACHET to mark the World Population Day on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2001. A large number of participants, belonging to different walks of life attended the seminar. The seminar had been arranged to display the commitment and concern of SACHET over the issue of population growth. The main objective of the seminar was to focus on the importance of the correlation between population, media and environment in a purely Pakistani context.

Representatives of Print and Electronic Media, NGOs, Service Providers and Research Organizations presented their views. They expressed their views regarding



population and the role of communications, the problems emerging due to population growth and also recommended some solutions to these problems. The speakers included Mr. Abdul Hamid Tabassum, magazine editor- Ausaf, Ms. Tasneem Ahmer, representative of an NGO UKS, Ms. Farkhanda Shaheen, Sr. Producer-PTV World, Dr. Saqib, Associate Professor, Health Services Academy, Nibahat Shireen, Senior Producer, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Dr. Abdul Hakim, Director NIPS.

Population Growth was discussed in the seminar as one of the major enigmas of Pakistan. It was termed as a menace that gives rise to many problems like government's growing dependence on foreign assistance to cater to the growing number of people, lack of provision of basic facilities like health facilities, education, & tackling the resulting pollution, etc.

The role of electronic media as being one of the most powerful instruments of communication for highlighting important issues like population was acknowledged. The speakers and the participants laid great emphasis on the relationship of the population, media and environment. They recommended that instead of projecting problems, the media should also provide solutions.

It was strongly recommended that people should be sensitized through media that men are responsible for the sex determination of a new born not the women. It was also suggested in the discussion that media should focus on enter-educate programs that combine entertainment with education and information.

(Report by: Saleem Baig & Aamna Khalid)

Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) recently conducted a seminar on "Improving Maternal Health -A Reproductive Health Priority for Balochistan", on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2001 at Quetta. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Roshan Khurshid Barucha (Minister of Population Welfare, Social Welfare, Social Development and Human Rights) and led by distinguished panel members. It was part of an on going series of seminars to be conducted across major cities of Pakistan. The first two seminars of this series were conducted in Islamabad and Karachi on "Is Pakistan's Population Sustainable?," and "Urban Boom or Urban Decay: Population Pressure on Karachi respectively. The remaining two seminars will be conducted in Lahore on "Rural to Urban Migration -Fallouts for Pollution and Water Shortages", and in Peshawar on "Afghan Refugees - Additional Population Pressure?" in August and September 2001 respectively. All the events have been catered to the specific situation and interest of the city/province.

Report by: Atif Ikram( Executive Officer, PAP)

### Web sites related to Population

[Http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ResFacilities/demographic-list.html](http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ResFacilities/demographic-list.html)

Discussion of demography and demographic techniques

[Http://www.nidi.nl/public/demos/index.html](http://www.nidi.nl/public/demos/index.html)

Bulletin on population and society that disseminates demographic research findings

[Http://www.pop.psu.edu/general/pubs/PAA\\_Affairs/index.html](http://www.pop.psu.edu/general/pubs/PAA_Affairs/index.html)

Reports, recent research on worldwide population issues

[Http://www.jhuccp.org/popwel.stm](http://www.jhuccp.org/popwel.stm)

Databases of more than 225,000 citations with abstracts on population, family planning and related health issues

[Http://www.popcouncil.org](http://www.popcouncil.org)

Population Council- a research organization that seeks to improve human well being and reproductive health around the world

[Http://www.popcouncil.org/pdr/default.html](http://www.popcouncil.org/pdr/default.html)

The journal population and development review published by Population Council

[Http://popindex.princeton.edu](http://popindex.princeton.edu)

Annotated bibliography of recent books, journal articles, working papers, and other material on population topics

[Http://www.prb.org/prb](http://www.prb.org/prb)

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) investigates demographic dimensions of reproductive health, family planning and related issues

[Http://www.prb.org/prb/bulletin.htm](http://www.prb.org/prb/bulletin.htm)

Population Bulletin published by PRB

[Http://www.prb.org/prb/poptoday.htm](http://www.prb.org/prb/poptoday.htm)

Population Today-published by PRB

[Http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm)

Annual report highlighting new developments in population

[Http://www.zpg.org](http://www.zpg.org)

ZPG- works to slow population growth and achieve a sustainable balance of people, resources and the environment

[www.popact.org](http://www.popact.org)

Population Action International

[www.popnet.org](http://www.popnet.org)

Information on Population

[www.ippf.org](http://www.ippf.org)

International Planned Parenthood Federation

[www.pap.org.pk](http://www.pap.org.pk)

Population Association of Pakistan

[www.key.org.pk](http://www.key.org.pk)

Key Social Marketing-Pakistan

### Fertility & Education

In most countries particularly those in the process of demographic transition fertility tends to vary very strongly with the level of female education. The strongest educational differentials are observed in Africa. Extreme cases are in Benin & Togo, where women without formal education have on average well above six children, while women with some tertiary education have only 1.3 on average. In Latin America, these average differentials are 7.1 verses 1.8 in Guatemala; 7.1 verses 2.2 in Bolivia; and 5 verses 1.5 in Brazil. Asia & Europe have an intermediate position, and North America shows virtually no educational fertility differentials. (Options, Spring 2001)

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi, is an outstanding economist and elucidating intellectual of our times. Dr. Naqvi honored AGEHI by lending his valuable time. He enlightened us with his knowledge, perceptions and opinions on economics, national development, political system, governance, law and religion. Lamenting the role of academic councils in Pakistan he remarked that these were our most conservative institutions. Although he believes that exodus of excellent brains from Pakistan has a direct influence on its economy, he is still hopeful that we would be able to sustain ourselves.

While going through this interview, the readers would certainly notice a combination of heart, mind and soul in the words of Dr. Naqvi, a trait that has become rare in present day Pakistan. Due to space limitations we could not publish the entire text. Readers are requested to visit our web site for the unedited interview of Dr. Naqvi.

capacious Human Development Index (HDI) and/or by a Human Deprivation Index (HPI), both of which are essentially pluralistic conceptions of economic progress. In this respect the UNDP's research has expanded the scope of the traditional concept of economic development. It goes beyond the means to achieve human well-being to focus on the ends of development. True, this wider concept of human well-being is essentially vague and lacks the precision of the GNP indicator; but in matters of such importance for the betterment of humankind it is better to be vaguely right than precisely wrong! However, there is now a widespread consensus around the view that economic development (focusing only on income) and human development (focusing on education, health, and income) tend to reinforce each other, if wisely managed; but that it is not possible to pursue one to the neglect of the other. Once again, the East Asian experience shows that sustaining high rates of growth of income over several decades requires that a higher rate of human development be associated with high social spending; and vice versa. It, therefore, follows that it would be a grave mistake to focus only on the ends (human development) rather than the means (economic development) if such a shift of policy emphasis leads to a neglect of achieving high rates of growth of per capita income.

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi was born in Marath, in 1935. He migrated to Karachi, Pakistan in 1950.

Following his master's degree from the Yale University in 1961, he earned his doctorate from the Princeton University in 1966. After finishing his post-doctorate research from Harvard University in 1970 he carved a career pathway that is studded with high portfolios, challenging responsibilities and distinguished accomplishments. Besides holding many high level positions, Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi has also been Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and until recently Senior Economic Advisor, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Rector (Designate), Kausar University of Sciences, Islamabad.

### GNP versus Human Development:

A unifocal concentration on achieving the highest feasible growth rate of the Gross National Product (GNP) as a proxy for human welfare is the hall-mark of the 'traditional' development paradigm (born in the early Nineteen Fifties). The point is that a high rate of growth of the GNP adjusted for the growth rate of population yields a measure of the potential for raising individual welfare (i.e., an increase in per capita income) on the average. However, it has been understood (though not always grasped by the policymaker, nicknamed by John Maynard Keynes as the "madmen in authority") that raising this potential on the average does not necessarily mean increasing it for all, even most, individuals. Awareness has also increased in the last two decades so that the potential for human welfare that rising per capita income represents can be dissipated if the inequities of human condition (including gender inequities) worsen. The dawning of this knowledge has taken the form of the basic proposition that growing inequality is inimical to sustaining high growth rates of GNP over the long haul; and it is also definitely inconsistent with economic development, which signifies a wider sharing of the fruits of economic growth. The growth experience of the East Asian 'miracle' economies has convincingly demonstrated that, contrary to received wisdom, egalitarianism and growthmanship can reinforce each other in a virtuous circle, especially when the growth rate of per capita income exceeds 6 percent per annum which, incidentally, means that per capita income doubles every 11 years or so. The lesson here is that a high growth rate, if wisely managed, can be equalizing.

A closely related trend of thought, which has entailed a broadening of the traditional development paradigm, is that achieving human happiness ultimately means not just "commodity fetishism" (a Marxian phrase) but the acquisition of some basic "functionings" (e.g., being healthy, being literate) and the "capabilities" to acquire these by the individuals who, exercising their freedom, make the choices they wish to make. That being the case, economic development really means enlarging people's choices by enabling them to live longer in good health, receive greater (and better) education, and get bigger incomes, all of which adds up to human development. This is the UNDP's research agenda. It means that, rather than concentrating on increments in income alone, human welfare should be measured by a more

### The Population Issue:

In developing countries it is essential that population growth rate is slowed down to the replacement level, by making a transition from a high-mortality-high-fertility sequence to a low-mortality-low-fertility sequence. This process is known as "Demographic Transition". Experience shows that sustaining high rates of fertility over extended periods is a demographic impossibility. Thus, for instance, if a 3 percent growth rate of population were sustained in Pakistan, then there would be 2 billion Pakistanis by the end of the next century and in 230 years our population would have been multiplied by a factor of 1000 to become 80 billion; and in yet another 230 years we shall be 80 trillion, perhaps inhibiting not only the Planet Earth but the entire galaxy! But Mother Nature will surely cool off our procreative exuberance much earlier, perhaps to leave some room for the non-Pakistanis as well. This has happened several times in human history, by inflicting on demographically irresponsible humans famines, floods, earthquakes, wars something that we should like to avoid in favour of more controllable policy options! Taking a 'peaceful' route to human existence instead means that four things happen simultaneously: (i) The decision-making at the household level assigns a much higher value to having a smaller family size than is the case now. In other words, the demand for

children must decline as a matter of the household's voluntary choice. In this context, an irrational son preference must be abandoned, partly to avoid the tragedy of the "missing women" (i.e., those not allowed to be born), of which there are millions. In China, this number was a colossal 40 million in the mid-1980's; and

in India 30 million in the same period. Their numbers are very large in Pakistan as well. (ii) The supply of safe family planning devices increases significantly, especially in the rural areas where high fertility rates have tended to aggravate poverty and depress agricultural productivity and wages. (iii) The literacy rates, especially among women, significantly rises. (iv) The rate of economic and social progress is rapid. Fortunately,

the developing countries have been wise enough to reduce their fertility rates to, even below, the replacement level rather quickly. Thus, during 1990-98, the population growth rate in the low-income countries came down from an unsustainable average of 3.4 percent to 2.00 percent, and from 2.8 percent to 1.5 percent in the middle-income countries. In Pakistan too Demographic Transition has finally arrived, though much later than elsewhere. The current population growth rate here is 2.1 percent, which is a vast improvement over the growth rate of 3.1 percent in the 1980's. It is hoped that this process will now gain momentum, if anti-natalist policies are consistently pursued. There are both demographic and economic reasons for achieving success on this score sooner rather than later. The demographic reason is that the rates at which additions to population are made today fix the size and composition of the labour force for the next 20 years ! This is known as Demographic Momentum. The economic compulsion to reduce population growth rates to the replacement level and below is that a lower (higher) rate is associated with a higher (lower) rate of saving, investment, and economic growth.

However, ironically, as most developing countries, including Pakistan, are about to solve the problem of high (and unsustainable) growth rate of population, Nature has already brought to the fore the opposite challenge of "population ageing" as if to ensure that humankind, like Sisyphus, does not run out of the reasons for perennial toiling against heavy odds. This new phenomenon has already severely strained resources of the developed countries, and of the erstwhile developing countries, like Japan. It is no longer a distant possibility for low-and middle-income countries. However, fortunately, these countries are at present recipients of the one-time "demographic gift", before the gathering force of Demographic Transition begins to deplete the working-age pool of labour force. It is that a delayed fertility decline in these countries will for a time stretch the size of the working-age cohort. However, this gift is only an opportunity which, if not fruitfully exploited now, will lead to a decline in these countries' competitiveness in the international markets and a sharp rise in inter-cohort rivalry. The challenge for these countries, including Pakistan, is to make bigger investments in human capital now to produce a highly trained and skilled population in the years to come to meet the challenges of this Age of Globalization. This has come about in the fast-developing countries of East Asia, while others

(including Pakistan) may miss the bus. The lesson of this analysis is that the process of Demographic Transition should be accompanied by sensible economic policies to increase the quantity and quality of human capital and sustain high rates of economic and human development.

#### State of Pakistan Economy:

At least six major debilitating crises namely, the growth crisis, the resource-mobilization crisis, the balance-of-payments crisis, the external debt crisis, the income distribution crisis, and the poverty crisis have delayed the onset of economic spring by throwing the economy off the self-generating growth course, by greatly weakening its "fundamentals", and by turning Pakistan into an inegalitarian, non-caring society, where the "voice-less millions" remain unheard. The chalice of economic prosperity is now farther from our grasp than at any time in the 52 years of our history. The "mother" of all crises is, however, that an adverse concatenation of economic forces has produced a near-zero growth of per capita income in the 1990's. This is in sharp contrast to Pakistan's own impressive growth record of 3.48 per annum during 1977/78 to 1997/98 and 2.57 per annum during 1988/89 to 1991/92; and this was at a time of a significantly higher growth rate of population of 3 percent plus. If the economy keeps growing at this dismal annual rate (of about 1.5 percent on the average), then it will take 46.6 years to just double our per capita income. However, if we had grown at a rate of about 3.5 percent since 1987/1988 then we would have doubled per capita income in about 10 years from now. No less important are the resource-mobilization, the balance-of-payments, and the debt crises, which have become major internal and external constraints on the efforts to take the economy back to its historical growth path. Thus, a failure to reduce the budgetary deficit 'naturally' (that is, by raising enough tax and non-tax revenues) has meant doing it by cutting down mainly on development expenditure and by reckless internal borrowing; the inability to narrow down the trade deficit by exporting a lot more than we are doing at present has required economising on the vitally needed imports and depleting foreign-exchange reserves, and it has led to unsustainable levels of external indebtedness.

Income distribution is more unequal now than ever before, poverty has risen after falling sharply in the 1980's, human deprivation (especially of women) has become more intense, and the unemployment rate now stands at 6 percent per annum in contrast to the 3 percent rate that prevailed in Pakistan over the preceding three decades.

Similarly, the current government efforts to achieve greater macro-economic stability first i.e., lowering the budgetary and trade deficits, reducing the inflation rate, retiring internal and external debts are more likely to retard, rather than accelerate, the growth rate of the GNP. It is high time, therefore, that we raised the growth rate of per capita income to at least 3 percent per annum (which, at the current rate of population growth of 2.1, implies a modest growth rate of GNP by 5.1 percent), and then gradually increased it to 4.8 percent per annum while the population growth rate is lowered to 1.8 percent (which means that the GNP increases at the rate of 6 percent). It should be possible to achieve this higher growth rate, which would increase per capita income by 160 percent in just 20 years, because Pakistan enjoyed a 6.16 percent growth of GNP for 14

The chalice of economic prosperity is now farther from our grasp than at any time in the 52 years of our history. The "mother" of all crises is, however, that an adverse concatenation of economic forces has produced a near-zero growth of per capita income in the 1990's.



Photo by Saleem Baig

## An interview with Prof. Dr. Nawab Haider Naqvi, SI

years (from 1977 to 1992). But the real challenge is to increase per capita income by 6 percent or so for two or three consecutive decades. However, success in this would require hastening the process of "Structural Transformation" (i.e., consistently keeping the share of manufacturing in total GNP significantly higher than that of agriculture); raising the saving and investment rates; increasing the efficiency of investment; achieving a faster rate of employment-promoting industrialization; increasing the share of wages in the GDP; and correcting the existing (feudal) structure of property rights. Once all this is done, the efforts to attain macro-economic stability, reduce poverty, and increase human development are more likely to be crowned with success than in the midst of the prevailing gloom of economic stagnation. True, implementing such a wide-ranging agenda is going to be difficult, even painful, for our free-riding and socially irresponsible elites; but no less is required to sustain high rates of economic and human development, distribute equitably the fruits of economic progress, and improve the lot of the under class in the society.

**The Role of Multilateral Donors:**

We love our multilateral donors (mainly the IMF) because they lend us the much-needed external resources to finance a higher rate of investment than could be sustained by domestic savings alone, at lower rates of interest and with a significantly longer repayment period than the international financial market can offer. Indeed, the severity of the debt problem has risen in Pakistan during the 1990's partly because we borrowed to our heart's content from the private borrowers as well. But we hate the multilateral donors because of the rather harsh (even sadistically painful) "conditionalities" they make us fulfill. These conditionalities have multiplied with the passage of time so much so that there is little room left now for the domestic policymaker, the rhetoric of "home-grown" policies not with standing. That by itself would not be a bad thing because domestic policies in Pakistan have been, by and large, ill-informed and have tended to protect the interests of the rich at the expense of those of the poor. The shameful inability to impose an agricultural income tax, carry out land reforms, tax the industry and trade and the rich at high enough rates are just a few examples of a massive governance failure in Pakistan. That being the case, international pressure to make the politically constrained policymaker do the 'right' things should be socially desirable, however 'unpatriotic' this may sound. The problem, however, is that many of the conditionalities, which reflect a one-size-fits-all mindset, have not been in our best interests. Thus, a monocentric emphasis on the pursuit of macro-economic stability and the absolute lack of a trade-off between it and other vital economic and social objectives has meant a slower rate of growth, worse income and wealth distribution, and greater poverty and human deprivation. Yet another instance of this mindset is the recommendation to carry out a no-holds-barred privatization of public enterprises, on the unproven premise that it must lead to greater efficiency because government intervention in the production of goods and services is generally counterproductive. In fact, the studies done on the merits of privatization in the developing countries (including those done in Pakistan) do not bear out such beliefs; instead, they show that privatization has led to massive public corruption, while its efficiency and revenue gains remain questionable, at best. In general, efficient government intervention, which both supplements and supports the markets, is almost always superior to both centrally controlled economic arrangements and unregulated markets. However, the multilateral donors, while appreciating the validity of such arguments, invariably make privatization an integral part of their conditionalities, mainly on ideological grounds. Yet another

example of the multilateral donors' thinking is their unequivocal emphasis on "liberalization" i.e., the lowering of all tariff and non-tariff barriers on trade and capital flows, and a sharp devaluation of the domestic currency. That excessive protectionism is harmful for the countries imposing them as well as for the world economy is a proven fact; what, however, is not established is that even selective protection, especially that with respect to capital flows, is undesirable. Indeed, the East Asian crisis of 1998/1999 has proved that regulation of capital flows is essential to the smooth working of the developing economies and the world economy. Also, too sharp a devaluation increases the inflation rate, and significantly enlarges the size of external debt in terms of the domestic currency, even though its contribution to export growth remains modest at least in the short-to-medium run.

Two points must be noted about our love-hate relationship with the multilateral donors. Firstly, it is not helpful at all to subscribe to the 'conspiracy theories', which would ascribe to the multilateral donors evil motives e.g., That they would not let a developing country grow fast enough. The unalloyed emphasis of the multilateral donors on macroeconomic stability i.e., a near-zero inflation rate, very low budgetary and trade deficits has also been the practice in the OECD countries since 1973, though with similar results: slow growth, widening inequalities of income, high unemployment rates. But this does not make these policies any better, especially for the developing countries. Instead, what we have here is an example of good intentions paving the way to hell! Secondly, the granting of economic aid by the multilateral donors is a certificate of reasonable economic health, without which even the private funds will not be forthcoming. That being the case, the borrowed funds must be efficiently used with a view to getting out of the straitjacket of conditionalities. The South Korean attitude in the wake of the 1998/99 crisis is worth studying and emulating by countries like Pakistan. They accepted such aid as a necessary evil, instead of believing in the 'eventual' beneficiaries of these conditionalities. Thus, while we must fulfill the contracts we agree on, every effort should be made to improve the working of the economy by other means as well by such means as will accelerate the growth rate, improve distributive justice, and reduce poverty and human deprivation.

**The Making of a Development Economist:**

John Maynard Keynes famously remarked: "The Theory of Economics does not furnish a body of settled conclusions immediately applicable to policy. It is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking, which helps its possessor to draw correct conclusions." There are four elements of this homily, which need to be firmly grasped: (i) Doing Economics is not just a repetitive application of "settled conclusions" and infallible laws and doctrines as a key to instant economic prosperity. (ii) Instead, economists have a more difficult job to do namely, it is to take the text-book lessons, which teach him how to "think" systematically and logically, only as a starting point. (iii) Having learned the basic "technique", the next step is to apply it to specific situations. (iv) But a successful application of the received doctrines requires both the ability to draw "correct conclusions" from given premises (by deductive reasoning) and from a detailed study of the essentials of the specific situations (by empirical analysis). All this adds up to the conclusion that, for all his mastery of the basic techniques of economic analysis, a successful economist must resist the temptation to fall for context-free "one-size-fits-all" prescriptions. In other words, economists, not in possession of universal, infallible laws of the economic universe, must improvise in specific situations and societies and times to prove their (marginal) utility to the society. **Contd. on page 11.....**

## Demography in Pakistan

A Personal Note

Dr. M. S. Jillani

In 1954, the Pakistan Economics Association held its annual meeting at Peshawar. I participated as president of the Punjab University Economics Society and read a paper on the solution of the impending population problem through migration to Balochistan etc. besides family planning. I was torn to pieces by the participants as everybody thought that I was raising a problem which did not exist. However, the President of the Association, Mr. Zahid Hussain, who was a widely respected



University of Chicago Graduates with Prof. Phillip H. Hauser

Pakistani Scholars, M.S. Jillani, Sultan S. Hashmi & Jameela Naeem are also present in the group

chairman of the (Pak) Planning Board supported this graduate student, at least on the concern for population growth, if not the solutions.

Next year (1955), I got my master's degree and was appointed a University Lecturer in Economics at the Punjab University; one of the courses (papers) for graduate classes that I chose to teach was known as 'Population and Labour Problems'. I changed the content of the course and made it 75 percent demography and population studies. I was totally self-taught and with the exception of Prof. Kingsley Davis' Population of India and Pakistan, Prof. Thompson's textbooks and bits and pieces, I did not have much to bank upon. There was a gentleman at Lahore -- Khalid Hayat Khan -- who was deeply interested in population methodology as he was Chief Statistical Officer/ Director at the Public Health Department, Punjab. He came to me and asked if he could sit in my classes. I, in fact, welcomed him ---- it was good to have a senior person in a class taught by a 22 year old young man. He kindly pointed out my weaknesses after the class, for which I was always grateful. (He never tried to attend my other courses, which dealt with Economics. My first class of 'demographers' carrying M.A degrees in Economics came out in 1956.

That year, I had planned to apply for Rhodes scholarship. I mentioned it to Mr. Khan. He said that there was a new organization known as the Population Council which would get me training in demography rather than economics (under the Rhodes scholarship) so why not apply to the Population Council. He promised to get me a form the next day - - and he did. My teachers insisted on the Rhodes so I applied for both --- But even in Rhodes application I gave population as my main interest. The

Population Council response was quick and positive ' so I became the first Pakistani Population Council fellow (thanks to Dr. Dudley Kirk, Prof. Hauser and Khalid Hayat Khan). As a consequence, I got hell from the Secretary, Pak Rhodes Committee when I went to withdraw my application and collect the transcripts an old British Justice.

In August 1957, I reached Chicago along with my bride of about a year and plunged in my studies with an intellectual eagerness as well as with an aim to finish my Ph.D. in two years. Dr. Kirk and Professor Hauser watched with amusement (due to my aim to get the Ph.D. in 2 years) but also great interest. In the course of events, I looked for a Pakistani that one could talk to. Professor Hauser told me about Sultan Hashmi who was studying for an M.A. in Sociology and specialization in Social Psychology. I found him and over the weeks convinced him to shift to Demography. Since we were five Population Council fellows (including Mercedes Concepcion, Raoul Vargus, Ismail Maung Khin), a group was easy to form. We all studied together, took the examinations together and set a pace which was amazing. Dr. Hashmi used his credits from the Ph.D. to obtain his M.A. and returned to Pakistan I finished my Ph.D. requirements and the viva/defense of my dissertation and returned in January 1960, (ironically, the typing of the thesis took two years as the person who had the script fell sick). After returning, I started the Dept. of Sociology at the University of Karachi and produced demographers and social researchers by the bushel during 1960-67. Dr. Hashmi returned from Chicago and joined PIDE at Karachi in late 1962. Col. Nazir (D.G. Central Statistics Office) and Karol Krotki (PIDE) were major employers of my students and almost all major Pakistani Demographers from Karachi went through their projects.

In 1967, I joined the Planning Commission, ostensibly to look after demographic concerns, and to become what Government servants are meant to be --- i.e. docile creatures who lack big initiatives. I was used as an economist and demographer-in-waiting. Although recruited by the Planning Commission to do population work, by the time I had finished economic planning, I had become too senior to take charge of demography alone. However, Planning Commission became an important place for population policies. NIPS, in fact was also conceived and finalized at the planning commission. The status of the work done by the Population Council, PIDE, NIPS etc. now is before everyone. The future work as I envisage it, is a separate topic which one may write about sometime. However, in about fifty years, the study of population in Pakistan has come of age. Apart from occurring as a research area and planning topic, population has emerged as an intellectual pursuit, with the 'population people' from Pakistan figuring in the World .

### Change !

"The short-term computer courses by SACHET, I believe, are very helpful for youth of our village. It will help us to get acquainted with modern ways of acquiring knowledge, & in finding appropriate jobs. We, young people are lucky that we have a good chance to get computer education at our doorsteps"

(Naeem Tahir, 23, Student SACHET Computer Training Center Mohra Noor village, Islamabad, July 2001)

**Minhaj ul Haque** is 36 years old having expertise in behavioural research. He is presently working in an international research organization, The Population Council since the last 9 years. He is experienced in designing quantitative and qualitative survey tools and statistical analysis of survey data. He is proficient in several packages for the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data with expertise in SPSS. Minhaj has received many trainings, attended a number of workshops, which have enhanced his capacity in conducting research activities. Out of them salient have been course on Analyzing Adolescent risk-taking behaviour from University of Hawaii, USA; and Course in Reproductive Health

Research from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, England. He has also contributed in numerous publications covering various aspects of reproductive health. He has done his M.Sc. in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and has ambitions to conduct research on Transition to adulthood, education, work and marriage among youth in Pakistan.  
E-mail: [minhaj2000@yahoo.com](mailto:minhaj2000@yahoo.com)

## Women Rights & Wrongs

### Mainstreaming Gender

All of us know that there is provision of maternity leave for female employees both in public & private sectors in Pakistan. But, the idea of paternity leave sounds new in our society. SACHET has granted its male employees the right to avail paternity leave. One off day in each trimester for medical checkups of their wives and four on the delivery of the newborn. The employees can avail this leave for their first two children only..... Isn't this gender empowerment? .....and isn't this empowerment of women also?

### Out of consideration

Don't kill my daughter in front of me.  
All right, all right. Peel off her clothes and throw her with the other girls!  
Manto-the master storyteller-translated from Urdu by Khalid Hassan a leading Pakistani journalist and literary translator.

We need every human gift and cannot afford to neglect any gift because of artificial barriers of sex or race or class or national origin.

Margaret Mead (1910-1978)  
From "Male and Female"

Woman is shut up in a kitchen or in a boudoir, and astonishment is expressed that her horizon is limited. Her wings are clipped, and it is found deplorable that she cannot fly.

Simon De Beauvoir (1908-1986)  
From "The Second Sex"

### What makes a successful business woman? (Men are encouraged to read it)

Is it talent? Well, perhaps, although I've known many enormously successful people who were not gifted in any outstanding way, not blessed with particular talent. Is it, then, intelligence?... What, then, is the mystical ingredient? It's persistence. It's that certain little spirit that compels you to stick it out just when you're at your most tired. It's that quality that forces you to persevere, find the route around the stone wall. It's the immovable stubbornness that will not allow you to cave in when everyone says give up.

Estee Lauder  
From "Estee: A Success Story"

**Azra Aziz**, 38 years old, is experienced in conducting surveys, evaluations & analysis of different type of data. She has been affiliated with research work related to population at National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) for the last thirteen years. She holds postgraduate degree in sociology/demography from USA & Masters degree in Public Administration from Punjab University, Lahore. Her ambitions are to continue research related to population issues with core research groups in Pakistan & abroad as well.

### A Must Read Memo

*Every issue will have a specific page in this Newsletter for the introduction of young people who are proficient in their respective fields.*

*If you are less than 40 years with expertise in research work, send us your bio data with two latest photographs (optional).*

*The objective of this "projection" is to provide an opportunity to the upcoming researchers and public health scientists to get introduced within the ever growing development circle.*

### ????

The field worker's face was glowing. "Madam jee, mein iss ko lei hi ayai akher", (finally I have brought her) she said in a voice overloaded with the twitter of triumph. "Shabash, now work harder for more clients and a raise. Do not miss mohalla meeting today." I accredited her accomplishment. Since I was a trained Family Planning practitioner, I knew tricks of management.

As she left the room I looked attentively at my client who was brought for the tubal ligation. She appeared to me a grief-stricken woman around 50, but her clinical card, was telling that she was only 36.

"So Jannat bibi, after 8 children and 4 abortions you have finally decided to stop your children", I broke the silence with not very suitable words which I instantly realized. She remained quiet but gave me a piece of paper. That was the most important piece of information that she was carrying, the consent of her husband.

"Aha so your husband has become considerate", I filled my voice with the best possible level of ebullience.

She burst into tears. "He is getting married again to have sons, I am a girl-maker; he does not want me to produce more girls for him", she said in a doddering voice. While comforting her I abruptly started planning for attending some more training workshops to handle such highly unexpected situations never mentioned in any of the five-star hotel-based training workshops that I had attended so far. A question arose, somewhere deep inside my heart:

**Do our population policy framers know this woman?**

*Kathshinday*

## How to ensure a child becomes malnourished

Start with the smallest possible mother. This probably means that she was malnourished in her own childhood. Any extra food she may receive during pregnancy will be used to fuel her own metabolism and to make good her own chronic energy deficiency rather than to nourish the child in her womb.

If the diet of the mother-to-be is inadequate and unvaried, and she continues to do heavy work, then this will sharply increase the chances of the baby being born with low birth weight. At this point, the mother's anemia can be almost taken for granted. Frequent illness, malaria, reproductive tract infections, mental and physical abuse, and exposure to smoke from domestic fires and cigarettes will further increase the possibility of premature birth and low birth weight.

When the baby is born, the malnutrition of the mother may reduce the micronutrients in her breast-milk. Delaying the start of breast-feeding for 48 hours will further reduce the supply and also prevent the infant from receiving colostrum, the yellowish fluid which precedes normal breast-milk and protects against infection.

From now on, breast-feeding either infrequently or not at all will deny the child both the best possible food and a source of protection against common infections. If the child is instead fed from an unsterilized bottle using milk powder over diluted with unsafe water, then a self-reinforcing cycle of poor growth and frequent infection will be set up.

Introducing solid foods too early, especially if the food is a watery gruel with little energy value, will further increase the risk of infection and growth faltering. If the child is also kept away from health centres and vaccination points, then this too will increase the likelihood of frequent infection, giving the child little time to recover properly and catch up on growth in between episodes of disease. Measles and diarrheal disease, in particular, are sure to take away the child's appetite and cause growth to falter, especially if it is part of the culture to refuse food to a child who has an infection or withhold fluids from a child who has diarrhea. The process will be accelerated if the child's immediate environment is unhygienic, especially if there is neither safe water nor sanitation.

If the mother continues to eat last and least, she may have insufficient fat reserves to breast-feed adequately and very little energy for looking after her child. If she also has six or seven other children to look after, no help from her husband or partner, and a job outside the home, then this will make it virtually impossible for her to give the kind of care and attention that all small children need if they are to develop properly.

(THE ASIAN ENIGMA, 1996

Vulimiri Ramalingaswami, Urban Jonsson, and John Rohde )

## Child Care

In Africa it is accepted that the greatest obligation on a woman is to look after her husband's children and look after them well - an attitude which is noticeable in a thousand small details and even in the different perceptions of beauty and in male definitions of thinness and fatness in women. In South Asia, by contrast, society and tradition oblige a woman to make her husband and mother-in-law the central focus of her responsibilities.

Subordinated in a different way, judgment and self-expression and independence largely denied, millions of women in South Asia have neither the knowledge nor the means nor the freedom to act in their own and their children's best interests. Women are subordinated in both continents, as indeed they are in most regions of the world, but in kind and in degree the subordination of South Asia's women is of a different order. And the quality of child care suffers along with the quality of women's own lives.

(THE ASIAN ENIGMA, 1996

Vulimiri Ramalingaswami, Urban Jonsson, and John Rohde )

.....Contd. From page 8 (Interview of Dr. Naqvi)

It is the essential fallibility of economic laws which prompted yet another famous economist, Paul A. Samuelson to make the following delightful observation: "how treacherous are economic 'laws' in economic life: e.g., Bowley's law of constant relative wage share; Long's law of constant population participation in the labour force; Pareto's law of unchangeable inequality of incomes;.....; Everybody's law of a constant capital/output ratio. If these be laws, Mother Nature is criminal by nature". What is true of economics and economists (now loftily referred to as mainstream, or neo-classical, economists) is even more true of development economics and the development economists, who are even easier prey to the essential criminality of Mother Nature with respect to the economic 'laws'. In that proportion, the latter's job is more difficult than that of the former. But this is by no means a call to take arms against the sea of trouble that neo-classical economics may represent to some (Remember that some great social philosophers have derided economics as a dismal science). It is rather an affirmation of a development economist as an economist par excellence i.e., that he be an economist first and foremost, with a clear understanding of the economic principles and the basic tools of analysis that neo-classical economics teaches us, to be able to offer a menu of disciplined discourse rather than a riot of confusing (and confused) thought. However, following the Keynesian advice, he must reject any claims that what mainstream economics offers is a "doctrine" rather than a "method". Sadly, however, this is what mainstream economics has come to represent: a body of universally valid "settled conclusions," which make the real world conform to the axiomatically derived rules of behaviour. Much worse, it has taken the form of a Scholastic, to be revered for its own sake and its ascetic beauty. In the process of doing these abstract exercises, mainstream economics seems to have forgotten its original motivation i.e., "the Natural Progress of Opulence" as the Adam and Smith of modern economics, Adam Smith, put it as far back as 1776. Instead, what it has offered, though only intermittently and half-heartedly, is a theory of growth which is far removed from policy concerns. Neo-classical economics has undermined the Smithian Revolution in a more fundamental way: it seems to have abandoned attempts to understand the central issue of economics: namely, how decentralized choices interact and eventually get coordinated in favour of a theory according to which an economy is an outcome of the maximization of a representative firm's utility over an infinite time horizon!

**Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI)**, president SACHET inaugurated the SACHET Computer Laboratory for special persons, one of SACHET's education projects, at National Training Center for Special Persons, G-8 Markaz, Islamabad on April 28, 2001. The center is a collaborative project of SACHET with the Federal Govt. Federal Minister for Women Development, Social Welfare & Special Education, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah was also present on the occasion. SACHET Computer Laboratory is equipped with ten network computers. The center aims to impart computer skills to about 150 special persons a year.

SACHET's Education project, **SACHET Computer Training Center** & Poverty alleviation project, **SACHET Skill Development Center** were inaugurated by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, Executive Vice President, SACHET on May 22, 2001 at village Banigala, Moza Mohra Noor, Islamabad. SACHET Computer Training Center would benefit an expected number of 100 young boys & 40 young girls in one year. Similarly an expected number of 160 girls would be trained at SACHET Skill Development Center.

Under SACHET's Poverty Alleviation Program, **Sales Corner of the Products made by Special Children** was inaugurated by S. K. Tresseler, Federal Minister for Culture, Sports & Minorities, at SACHET Gallery on May 31, 2001.

AGEHI's preliminary report on "**Violence Against Women in Pakistan & Print Media**", a study report, by monitoring & analyzing the reported cases of violence from six National Newspapers was presented in a round table meeting at the Training



room of SACHET on August 13, 2001. The Presentation brought together a sizable number of representatives from various UN agencies, public institutions, NGOs & the Media. Dr. M. S. Jillani, President, Population Association of Pakistan presided over the meeting.

Training Project (Poverty Alleviation cum Income Generation Program) was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 by holding a one day workshop on **wax painting & wallet making** at SACHET Gallery. Women from Rawalpindi & Islamabad attended this workshop

SACHET held a series of **Free Medical Camps** at Kachi Abadi, I-11, Islamabad to help the affectees of the flood. Over 3000 patients were examined for different kinds of diseases & given free medicine. In this connection SACHET has also launched a campaign to collect donations for the affectees of flood.

### Community Survey at Shahdra village

SACHET's first community development program at Shahdra village near Barakaho in Islamabad is operational since October 1999. Projects that are operational at Shahdra village include free SACHET clinic, Computer Training Project, Skill Development Project, Community Literacy Project, & Health Education project.

SACHET conducted a community survey in March 2001 at Shahdra village. 385 household out of a total of 400 were interviewed. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the community perceptions on issues related to health, family size, number of children per family, Knowledge about family planning, family planning practices, awareness about HIV/AIDS etc.

Among other findings, the current survey indicates that 81% of the community is utilizing the free medical services provided by SACHET as compared to the previous findings of 26 percent (March 2000 survey). The awareness level about family planning has also been increased from 90 percent to 94.3%; the national level statistics is 96%, according to the current NIPS report.

In March 2000, the contraceptive users were 29.4%, that increased to 35% in March 2001. The national level contraceptive usage is 30%. These improvements can be attributed to SACHET's intensive community work through community meetings, community health education & above all through SACHET's Free Clinic.

(Report by: Saleem Baig)

**AGEHI Resource Center** Founded in September 2000, AGEHI (AGEHI is an acronym standing for Advocates of Gender, Education and Health Information. AGEHI itself is an Urdu word bearing meanings like Knowledge, Awareness, Perception and Insight) is the Resource Center of SACHET. It is meant to Advocate for Gender Sensitization, Education and Health promotion by disseminating Information, Networking & Research.

AGEHI Resource Center informs policymakers, educators, the media, the concerned citizens, civil society representatives, Students from remote areas of Pakistan, Young professionals, researchers, and Program Managers working in the areas of Gender, Education & Health throughout the country through a broad range of activities.

AGEHI resource center is working on three types of projects i.e. Communications/IEC (Information, Education & Communication), Advocacy and Service Delivery.

The major activities under IEC are the quarterly newsletter AGEHI, SACHET Calendar & the SACHET web site. AGEHI News Letter is designed to create an exchange platform for information and ideas on diverse issues of the national interest. The ultimate objective of AGEHI News Letter is to promote positive dialogue on policies and programs.

The advocacy projects include Community Literacy Project, Dare to Sensitize Train and Inform (DoSTI) a project to sensitize youth about sexually transmitted diseases, Study on violence against women & national poster competition on HIV/AIDS.

SACHET Computer Training Centers are the service delivery projects of AGEHI Resource Center.

**Send your Comments, Research, Reactions & Responses**  
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