Population, Labour Force and Employment

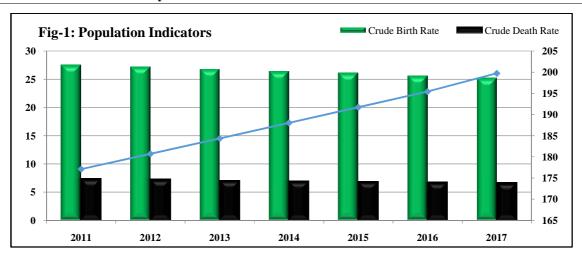
Pakistan is the sixth most populated country in the world with an estimated population of 199.71 millions. The estimated population growth and fertility rate is 1.86 and 3.0 respectively. The government is well aware of the issue of high population growth and fertility rate and trying to overcome through different programs like establishment of Family Welfare Centers (FWC), Reproductive Health Services Centers (RHS), Regional Training Institutes and Mobile Services Unit. The government has allocated Rs. 8176 million in 2016-17 to population welfare programs for smooth functioning.

In addition, the government is also trying to utilize the potential abilities of youth and has initiated many projects and programs to improve the employment level in the country. As a result the unemployment rate has

decreased from 6.2 percent in 2012-13 to 5.9 percent in 2014-15. Youth Development Program is one of the major initiatives taken by the government to generate employment opportunities for youth through different modes of business operations. It aims to provide various opportunities to the youth including micro interest free loans, small business loans for entrepreneurial activities, youth training and skill development facilities. In addition, the government is also providing fee assistance to students of less developed areas and laptops to the talented youth.

Demographic statistics of a country plays an important role in making the plans and frame work of economic policies. The Table 12.1 shows the selected demographic indicators of Pakistan.

Table 12.1: Selected Demographic Indicators						
	2015	2016	2017			
Total Population (Million)	191.71	195.4	199.1			
Urban Population (Million)	75.19	77.93	80.72			
Rural Population (Million)	116.52	117.48	118.38			
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.2	3.1	3.0			
Crude Birth Rate (Per thousand)	26.1	25.6	25.2			
Crude Death Rate (Per thousand)	6.80	6.70	6.60			
Population Growth Rate (Percent)	1.92	1.89	1.86			
Life Expectancy (Year)						
- Females	67.3	67.7	68.2			
- Males	65.2	65.5	65.8			
Source: Ministry of Planning ,Development and Reforms (Population Projections For the Year 2007-2030)						



Crude Rates

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Crude Death Rate (CDR) are important statistical values that can be utilized to measure the growth or decline of a population. The Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate are both measured by the rate of births or deaths respectively, among a population of 1000. These rates can have major impacts on the welfare of the population. In Pakistan CBR has been marginally improved from 26.1 per thousands in 2015 to 25.6 per thousand in 2016 and 25.2 in 2017. While the crude death rate has declined from 6.8 per thousand in 2015 to 6.7 per thousand in 2016 and in 2017 it is 6.6 per thousand. This improvement is due to the better health facilities like vaccination and availability of life saving drugs.

Population Growth

Population growth plays a determinant role in the development process of a country. Increasing population growth raise the dependency ratio and puts pressure on education, health system and food supply. However, Women's education can help to reduce population growth because education would increase awareness about their duty towards children and health risk factor. A constant improvement in health and education indicators along with effective population welfare programs, the population growth is persistently declining. It was 1.92 in 2015

which declined to 1.89 in 2016 and 1.86 in 2017.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth (LEB) is defined as the average number of years one would expected to live at birth. It is generally used as one of the main indicators to review the health status of a population in developed as well as developing countries and it also illustrate the economic and social development of a country.

The increased average life is strongly linked with better health facilities and in this regard the government is making serious efforts for provision of better health facilities to its citizens. The main objective of the health care system is to provide long and healthy life to the people. Increase in healthy average life of individual shows that people are living longer on account of awareness, better nutrition, health care programs, improved sanitation facilities, and economic well-being.

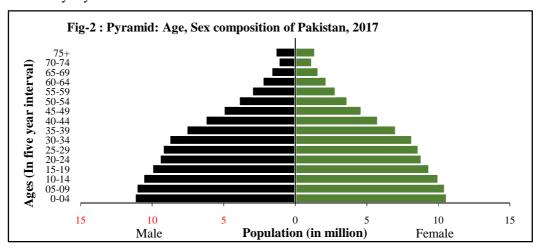
In Pakistan, average life for both male and female has improved on account of governments' efforts to handle health issues effectively. The average life expectancy of males has increased from 65.2 year in 2015 to 65.5 in 2016 and 65.8 years in 2017 whereas female's life expectancy rate also improved from 67.3 years in 2015 to 67.7 in 2016 and 68.2 years in 2017

Age Composition

Population composition shows characteristics of population such as age and sex. It provides a framework to interpret the health status and behaviors of the population. The distribution of population by age is an important feature which is required for socio economic sectors like education, health and employment. If the proportions of children and older persons is higher than government would spend more on schools, childcare, immunization and old-age social security systems and health care for

chronic diseases.

In Pakistan 10.9 percent of population is between the ages of 0-4 years and 21.2 percent is between 5-14 years. Population composition of the country is skewed towards working age population as 61.4 percent of population is falling in the age group 15-59. This demographic dividend may be best utilized for the economic growth by providing proper education, skill and vocational training in coming years.



Government's Initiatives and Strategies

PSDP funding for Population Sector

The Population Welfare Program is being executed by the Population Welfare Departments of the provinces and the federal units through the PSDP. Initially the Population Welfare Program was to end in June 2015 but on account of low PSDP allocations during some years, the projects have been extended till June 2017 to utilize the remaining amount. The provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh

are also funding the programs in addition to the PSDP funds.

The following table shows the yearly details of the allocation of PSDP funds to the provinces and federating units during last 4 years period. During this period an amount of Rs. 32 billion was allocated to the Population Welfare Departments of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, AJ&K, Gilgit Baltistan and FATA.

Table 12.2: PSDP Funding to Population Welfare Program from 2013 to 2017							
Province/ Area	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Releases up-to		
					March 2017		
Punjab	3,288.368	3,633.589	3,608.653	3,583.590	2,508.512		
Sindh	2,082.373	2,082.373	2,082.333	2,057.370	1,440.161		
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,026.575	1,283.378	1,283.447	1,268.450	887.913		
Balochistan	523.728	805.736	805.736	795.736	557.015		
AJ&K	180.021	223.356	223.354	273.356	191.349		
Gilgit Baltistan	118.722	118.722	118.722	118.722	83.105		
FATA	78.841	78.841	78.841	78.841	55.189		
Total	7,298.628	8,225.995	8,201.086	8,176.060	5,723.244		

Source: Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Islamabad

During the current financial year 2016-17, the amount of Rs. 8.176 billion has been allocated to population sector projects.

The physical progress under the Population Welfare Program (PWP) is shown in the Table below:

Table 12.3: Physical Progress							
Service Delivery	Target 16	Achievement 2016					
Family Welfare Centres (FWC)	3200	3405					
Reproductive Health-A Centres	250	253					
Mobile Service Units (MSUs)	350	178					
Reproductive Health-B Centres	225	86					

- Source: Population Welfare Departments of provinces and federating units.
- Population welfare program has established 3405 Family Welfare Centres (FWC) during 2016. FWC is one of the main service delivery networks of the program established in rural and urban areas for the provision of Mother Child Health Services (MCH), contraceptives and treatment of minor ailments.
- Reproductive Health Services-A Centres (RHS-A) are hospital based units which provide infertility treatment full range of family planning methods including contraceptive surgery services. These centres also assists in public health education campaign and awareness raising about personal hygiene etc. There are 253 RHS-A centres established in the country.
- 178 Mobile Service Units (MSU) has been established in 2016. The MSU extends reproductive health services and family planning services to villages through regular camping services
- The hospitals registered as RHS-B Centres is providing training to doctors and paramedics.
 During 2016 government has launched 86 RHS-B Centres.

The Country Engagement Working Group

The government is signatory of London Family Planning Summit of July 2012 (FP-2020) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The government has formed the Country Engagement Working Group (CEWG) of the population and family planning stakeholders for project's better implementation to achieve the targets of 2012 London Summit of Family Planning (FP-2020) like universal access to reproductive health and

raising the contraceptive prevalence rate to 55 percent by 2020. The CEWG comprised of all the public and private sector stakeholders including development partners.

National Population Policy

The Prime Minister has assigned the task to the Planning Commission to carry out the strategic review of National Policies of different sectors, including the preparation of National Population Policy. For this purpose Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination will coordinate with the public and private sector stakeholders to formulate the National Population Policy. In this regard, the work is under process and Provincial Population Policies will be helpful for the finalization of National Population Policy.

Box-1: National Population and Housing Census 2017

The present government has given importance to population sector and the long awaited 6th National Population and Housing Census is under way in Pakistan. The census is in two phases, first phase from 15th March to 15th April and the second from 25th April to 25th May. The census data will be helpful for government, researchers and planners for critical evidencebased decision making, planning and evolving strategy for population control. The census will provide reliable data on population, its growth and migration trends in different regions/ areas, employment, urban-rural population, malefemale ratio, Afghan refugees etc. The national population census is also important for the resource allocation formula under National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

Women Empowerment

Women's empowerment is defined in different ways some of which include access to material resources such as land, money, credit and income, availability of decent employment opportunities that involve good working conditions, access to power through representation in political and decision making bodies, freedom to make choices in life, enjoyment of basic rights granted in the constitution and international agreements, equal access to quality education, health facilities and access to various facilities.

Pakistan is committed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Goal 5 i.e. Gender Equality; Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls. Pakistan is also a signatory of the UN Convention for Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The internalized government has Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as National Goals. The seven pillars of Vision-2025 are fully aligned with the SDGs and provide a comprehensive long-term strategy achieving inclusive and sustainable growth.

The present government has taken various steps to achieve women's empowerment through awareness campaigns and allocation of budget.

- Women's employment is encouraged, and the government has announced a 10 percent quota for women in public sector employment; Punjab raised this to 15 percent and Sindh to 25 percent.
- Punjab has lifted the ban on recruitments and 25,000 posts for women have been created at different tiers, and 70 percent of jobs in primary education have been earmarked for women.
- Moreover, Punjab Fair Representation of Women Act 2014 ensures 33 percent representation of women on all boards of statutory bodies, public sector companies, etc.
- Pakistan Army started recruiting women officers. Pakistan Air Force also has

- women fighter pilots on duty alongside their male counterparts.
- Under the federal PSDP an amount of Rs.20.0 million was allocated for implementation of project of human rights. Around Rs. 20 million is estimated to be utilized during the year for the establishment of a "Helpline for legal advice on violations of human rights" by the Ministry of Human Rights.
- Action Plan to improve the Human Rights Situation in Pakistan by the Ministry of Human Rights has been approved and for establishment of the "National Institute of Human Rights" Rs. 58.70 million was allocated, out of this Rs.10 million is expected to be utilized.
- Prime Minister directed to ensure fifty percent (50 percent) participation of women in PM's Youth Loan Schemes for the empowerment of women.
- In order to promote innovative ideas based on business plans leading to solution of social problems, the government has established a Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at a cost of Rs.178.43 million. The project is unique in nature for addressing social issues through innovative business plans and women are equally encouraged to grow as an entrepreneur.
- Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), a
 flagship social protection program of the
 government is designed to provide social
 assistance to women. BISP also gives
 interest free financial assistance to the
 female beneficiaries under their Waseela-eHaq (Micro-finance) program to start their
 own business. Only the woman can be the
 recipient and sole proprietor of the business
 but she can authorize any member of her
 family to run the business on her behalf.
- Vocational and Technical Training of one month to a year's duration, to the female beneficiary or her nominee is provided under the Waseela-e-Rozgar (Technical & Vocational Training) program (target is 150,000 beneficiaries) with a monthly stipend for each trainee is Rs. 6,000.

- The Waseela-e-Sehat (Life & Health Insurance) programs subsidizes healthcare for beneficiaries and life insurance provided to one million women, the premium is paid by the program.
- Waseela-Taleem (Primary Education) encourages beneficiary families to send their children ages 5-12 years to school through a co-responsibility cash transfer of Rs. 200/- per child (limit to three per family).
- Being a state party to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Pakistan is committed to implement its provisions in true spirit. The government has already taken measures to ensure women's right as envisaged in the CEDAW.
- Acknowledging 'honor' killings one of the most critical problems facing the country, the present government has enacted effective legislation to address women's issues with a view to safeguard their rights i.e. (Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honour) Act, 2016) and (Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences Relating to Rape), 2016).
- The women are being encouraged to fully participate in electoral process and in this regard a Gender Cell in Election Commission of Pakistan has been established.
- The women entrepreneurships have been encouraged and promoted by the Ministry of Commerce with cooperation of US Government.
- The government has set up several institutions to secure and promote women's rights and National Commission on the Status of Women is one of them. National Commission on the Status of Women Act, financially 2012 provides a administratively autonomous body with the objective of promoting social, economic, political and legal rights of women as guaranteed in the Constitution of Pakistan and in accordance with Pakistan's

- international obligations as embodied in various conventions, covenants and declarations.
- National Commission On The Status Of Women has prepared a comprehensive road map defining goals, priorities and strategies for empowerment of women of Pakistan with special focus on home based/informal sector workers and their inclusion in the labour force, affirmative action for reservations and quotas in government including minority communities, and legislation where necessary.
- Financial inclusion of women population with bank account has increased considerably from 4 percent in 2008 to 11 percent in 2015.

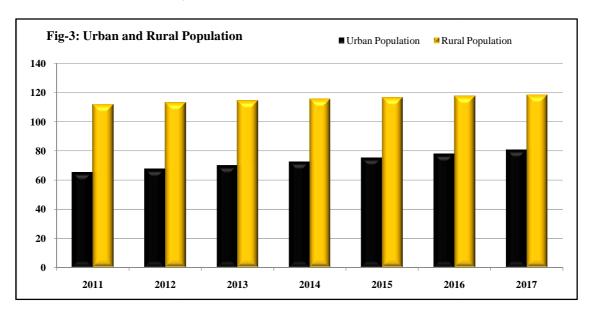
Urbanization

Urbanization has the potential to drive the country towards prosperity and competence, but this process needs effective tackling of critical issues like improvement in service delivery, provision of infrastructure and housing, laws and regulations related to land use, planning and observing building code and solid waste environmental problems.

In Pakistan the urbanization trend is not different from other countries of the world, as Pakistan is also facing a rapid increase in urbanization caused by population growth, urban migration, and refugees' migration. Due to this there is an expansion of under-resourced urban settlements, which caused unprecedented levels of economic, spatial, social, and infrastructural challenges and climate change impacts. The population of the country is expected to reach 242 million by 2030 and half of the population will live in urban areas. The facts and figures shows that the estimated population in the rural areas decreased from 62.1 percent in 2013 to 59.46 percent in 2017, whereas, the population in urban areas increased from 37.9 percent in 2013 to 40.54 percent in 2017.

The government is well aware of this issue and is making sincere efforts to improve the quality of life of the population living in urban cities through planned urbanization. For this purpose, the Ministry of Climate Change and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) in Pakistan have been working closely on various initiatives related to sustainable urbanization and climate change. These include

policy formulation and implementation of climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments and urban-related initiatives that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Box-2: Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs are a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that all UN member states are expected to use to frame their development agendas and socio-economic policies during 2015-2030. SDGs are much broader in scope than outgoing MDGs. One of the strengths of the SDG framework is its recognition of the direct linkages among human well-being, economic development and healthy environment. The government has also launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which has focused on social, environmental and economic development. The parliament has become the first entity to adopt the SDGs, and has established exclusive SDGs centre in the National Assembly. The government has shown its commitment by setting up SDG units with its own resources in Federal, Punjab while the process of establishing units in other provinces is under process for the achievement of its goals.

Employment Expansion Policies

Prime Minister's Youth Program is a remarkable initiative of the government for the socio-economic development of youth to combat unemployment in the country. This program has a broad canvas of schemes enabling youth and poor segments population get good employment opportunities, economic empowerment, acquiring skills needed for gainful employment, access to IT and imparting on-the-job training for young graduates to improve the probability of getting a productive job. Prime Minister's Youth Program includes six schemes. Details of the program are given below.

Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme: 21,734 loans cases worth Rs. 18.039 billion have been disbursed so far. The recovery rate is 90 percent with 10 percent Non Performing Loan (NPL) ratio. These are subsidized business loans at 6 percent mark up for a period of 8 years, and are granted after

satisfactory evaluation of borrower's business feasibility by the bank.

Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Scheme: More than 283,321 interest free loans amounting to Rs. 6.393 billion have been awarded to people in 44 districts across Pakistan. 62 percent of the loan beneficiaries are female, and the recovery rate of the scheme is 99 percent.

Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program: Under this program 73,627 youth both male and female has so far been trained in more than 100 demand-driven trades across Pakistan. Training classes of another 25,000 trainees under Phase III (Batch-II) has been commenced on 02 January 2017. Minimum 25 percent of the total training slots are reserved for female trainees. Madaaris students and disabled youth are also covered under this scheme. Furthermore, another 100,000 youth will be trained during 2017-18 & 2018-19 under Phase-IV and the allocation for this phase is Rs.6,196.50 million.

Prime Minister's Program for Provision of Laptops to Talented Students: In Phase- II, 200,000 laptops have been delivered to HEC recognized universities across Pakistan. The distribution of laptops to students is in process. Further the procurement process for additional 200,000 is also under process for the upcoming phases of the scheme.

Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme: A cumulative Rs. 6.8 billion have been released for this scheme since 2012-17 and Higher Education Commission (HEC) has paid around Rs5.74 billion tuition fee to 187,544 deserving students of less developed areas across Pakistan. Due to this valuable intervention, 100 percent enrollment has been increased in some universities of Balochistan.

Prime Minister's Youth Training Scheme: In Phase-I around 49,505 fresh graduates, degree/diploma holders, have been granted 12-month paid internship of Rs. 12000/month based on their matching demand in reputed public and private sector organizations.

The government has taken following measures to provide the employment opportunities to the youth.

- The government has increased the development expenditure from Rs. 348 billion in FY 2013 to Rs. 800 billion in FY 2017. These investments will create numerous jobs in various sectors of the economy and spur other economic activities, which will create further opportunities for gainful pursuits by our people.
- National Vocational &Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) has established a National Skills Information System to consolidate the demand and supply related information of TVET graduates at local and international level including analysis of labor market for informed decision making. It will also develop the linkages between industries and trained labor force for employability.
- Pakistan's first ever Job Placement Center (JPC) has been established to facilitate and provide carrier counselling of the job seekers. It is providing a unique platform for employers to advertise different career opportunities available in their organization. This initiative will bridge the gap between employers and skilled youth.
- NAVTTC has organized the Skill Competition at Divisional, Provincial and National level for its Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program passed out trainees. The employers and representative from industry were also invited to motivate the trainees and ensure the employability of passed outs.
- National Training Bureau (NTB) is implementing important interventions to expand the TVET Sector through active participation of Skill Development Councils (SDCs), affiliated institutes and NGOs. It is expanding the base of Trade Testing & Certification/Informal Training through Public-Private Partnership. NTB has entered into agreements with foreign companies on Public Private Partnership

(PPP) basis for setting up infrastructure and arranging training courses in various skills in Islamabad. This initiative of NTB will be helpful in enhancing the skills. The females are also being encouraged to acquire different skills which will be helpful in employability.

Export of Manpower

Migration is a significant feature of globalization and the number of migrants has been increasing tremendously for the past few years. These people have a positive impact on the economy of their home country in the form of remittances which encourages investment and support growth.

Bureau of Emigration and Overseas

Employment is responsible to control and regulate emigration and to look after the interest of emigrants. Seven regional offices of the Bureau are directly responsible to process the manpower demand and control/supervise the activities.

There are about 9.0 million overseas Pakistanis working around the globe. The main concentration of overseas Pakistanis is in Middle East 54.80 percent, Europe 26.81 percent and America 11.90 percent. During 2016, around 0.84 million labour force proceeded to different countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Middle East which not only contributed the economies of the host country through their services but also earned remittances for the county.

Table-12.4: Number of Pakistani Workers Registered								
S.No.	Countries	2013	2014	2015	2016			
1	UAE	273,234	350,522	326,986	295,647			
2	Bahrain	9,600	9,226	9,029	8,226			
3	Malaysia	2,031	20,577	20,216	10,625			
4	Oman	47,794	39,793	47,788	45,085			
5	Qatar	8,119	10,042	12,741	9,706			
6	Saudi Arabia	270,502	312,489	522,750	462,598			
7	UK	158	250	260	346			
S B								

Source: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment

Saudi Arabia is the largest country to host Pakistani workers and 1.6 million workers proceeded for job from 2013 to 2016 followed by UAE 1.2 million, Oman is 0.18 million and 0.04 million from Qatar.

Pakistan has a remarkable human resource which is classified into five occupational categories i.e. professional, un-professional, skilled, semi skilled and un-skilled. The Table below shows that 1.3 million skilled people and 1.26 million unskilled workers went abroad from 2013 to 2016. The government has taken many steps for the welfare of the overseas which includes the establishment of vocational training institutions for providing training in such trades which are in demand overseas.

Table-12.5: Profession Wise Pakistani Workers Registered.								
Year	Highly Qualified	Highly Skilled	Skilled	Semi skilled	Un skilled	Total		
2013	12,057	5,032	263,138	102,963	239,524	622,714		
2014	14,647	6,216	287,649	120,204	323,750	752,466		
2015	17,484	7,853	397,317	151,636	372,281	946,571		
2016	16,510	8,172	335,671	152,235	326,765	839,353		

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment

Manpower export has gradually decreased from 0.946 million in 2015 to 0.84 million in 2016. The major reason of declining the number of Pakistani workers proceeded abroad during 2016 was slowdown in construction - related

activities in Saudi Arabia and GCC countries, decrease in oil prices and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia slashed its transport and infrastructure budget in 2016 by 63 percent as compared to 2015. Presently, there is reversal of oil prices

and number of activities is in process which may likely to generate employment opportunities. The government has taken various measures and initiatives to increase the export of Pakistani manpower to other countries. Some of the steps are as follows.

- The Prime Minister of Pakistan paid follow up visit in February 2016 to Qatar after Emir of Qatar announced 100,000 Jobs from Pakistan for its FIFA World cup 2022 in which 2 million foreign manpower is required. A number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the field of Health, Radio & Television, Education & Research and a Long-term Sale/Purchase Agreement (SPA) of LNG are signed by both sides. The aforesaid agreements will create employment opportunities Pakistanis in Qatar. The Chief Minister Punjab also visited Qatar to get the maximum benefit from upcoming mega events.
- During the recent visit of Prime Minister to Kuwait the restriction on issuing of visas to Pakistani national has been lifted by the Kuwaiti Government
- Various steps are under consideration to capture the manpower market of UAE with special reference to Dubai Expo, 2020. There will be the demand of skilled workforce in future and the government is working on skill development of workers

- through NEVTTC/TEVTA.
- The government is working with UAE for up skilling and certified manpower. In this regard following four institutes have been accredited by UAE Government under the Pilot Project on Skills Up gradation Accreditation of Vocational Training Centre in Pakistan.
 - Institute of Technical & Professional Education, Rawalpindi,
 - ii. College of Technology, Rasul Mandi Bhaudin,
 - iii. Construction Technology Training Institute, Rawalpindi,
 - Applied Technologies Institute, NLC,
 Mandra with the collaboration of Group of Arfat Tirocinium (UAE).

Ministry of OP&HRD is taking measures for maximum export of Pakistani manpower to other countries especially Malaysia

The comparison among provinces shows that the manpower export is higher from Punjab as compared to other provinces. During 2016, the highest number of workers went abroad were from Punjab 446566, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 206929. However, the situation in other provinces is not encouraging which shows that proper attention in terms of establishment of new Skill Development Centers is required to increase the number of skilled labour force in the country.

Table 12.6: Province Wise Workers Registered for Overseas Employment									
YEAR	Federal	Punjab	Sindh	Khyber	Baloc-	Azad	N/areas	Tribal	Total
				Paktun-	histan	kashmir		area	İ
				khwa					
2013	7,109	326,012	55,608	150,418	9,293	40,038	1,190	33,046	622,714
2014	8,943	383,533	89,703	167,424	7,258	52,120	2,073	41,412	752,466
2015	9,028	478,646	116,935	220,993	7,686	64,586	2,899	45,798	946,571
2016	8,472	446,566	85,326	206,929	6,378	43,093	2,961	39,628	839,353
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment									

Conclusion

Pakistan is the sixth populous country in the world with current estimated population growth rate of 1.86 percent. The country has limited resources and increasing population is putting more pressure on these resources. The

government is much concerned about this issue and making serious efforts to control the population growth rate through education and media campaign. Another major initiative taken by the government is conducting the National Population and Housing Census that would be helpful for government and planners in decision making and formulating a strategy for population control. Pakistan is blessed with energetic youth and this workforce can be a productive asset of the country if properly trained through skill development programs. The government is cognizant of this fact and has initiated different skill development programs and training institutes for the youth which are being imparted through the establishment of vocational training centres. Focus on technical and vocational education will not only improve individual performance but also increase national productivity.