

Patterns of Distribution of Population in South Asia: A Study of Pakistan (1972-1981)

Munawar Sabir

University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

ABSTRACT

Population distribution in Pakistan is acutely uneven, as only one province of Punjab has got more than 56 % of the total population only 26 per cent of the total area of the country. Combined together with the second largest province of the Sindh, two provinces are having 76.7 % population 43.5 of the total area of the country. On the contrary, area wise largest province of Baluchistan has only 5.2% population inhabiting 43.6 (almost half) of the total area of the country .This gigantic unevenness is a result of natural and human factors.

Key Words: - Population distribution, Uneven distribution, Population density, per square KM

Introduction

As far as the distribution of population in Pakistan is concerned it is not homogeneous in character and bears a close relation with distribution of industrial as well as agricultural resources. These, in turn, depend partly on such factors as relief, soil, climate, water supply and the area available for cultivation. Besides, the distribution of population is also influenced by economic factors, such as the amount of capital available for investment, employment, methods of cultivation and infrastructure for economic change etc.

As table 3 indicates, the total population of Pakistan in 1972 was 65.3 million. Of which, the leading province i.e., the Punjab had 37.6 million or 57.6 per cent. On the other hand Balochistan contains 43.6 per cent of the country's area but has only 3.7 per cent of the national population.

Nevertheless, this situation is slightly changed especially for Balochistan. Table 1 gives us the situation of the country for 1981. The share of the Punjab declined to 56.1 per cent but Balochistan shows a remarkable change in its population and share of Pakistan rose to 5.2 per cent from 3.7 per cent. The other two provinces, Sindh (21.7 per cent in 1972 and 22.6 in 1981), remained the normal, 79.3 per cent of Pakistan's total population concentrated in the Punjab and Sindh while they have only 43.5 per cent of land, the remaining 56.5 per cent of area had only 21.3 per cent of total population in 1981.

The density of population of Pakistan was 82 and 106 persons per sq.km respectively in 1972 and 1981. Punjab is the most densely populated area having

230 persons per sq.km. in 1981, while Balochistan is sparsely populated constituted of 12 persons per sq.km. The density of population in Sindh is 135 persons per sq.km. While was 148 in N.W.F.P., 376 F.C.T.I. and 81 in F.A.T.A.

The uneven distribution of the population is principally related to the diversity of landforms. The population is denser in the plains and the thinner in difficult terrains. So, the availability of water for rising crops, irrigation, facilities and degree of urbanization being densely peopled.

Change in Population Density at Province Level

According to the figures in 1972 and 1981 census, among the four provinces of Pakistan, Punjab had the maximum population density whereas Balochistan had the minimum. The table 4.3 shows the density of all provinces and tribal areas of in 1972 and 1981 in per sq.km.

Punjab had 230 persons per sq.km in 1981, while it was 183 persons per sq.km in 1972. The per cent increase of population in Punjab was 26.5 per cent during 1972-81 decade.

The population density of Sindh in 1981 was 135 persons per sq.km and 82 persons per sq.km in 1972 census.

Table 1
Change In Population Density of Pakistan By Provinces, 1972-81

Locality	Area Sq.Km	Population		Change	Density (persons/ Sq.Km.		Change
		1972	1981		1972	1981	
Punjab	205,344	37,610,159	47,292,441	9,682,282	183	230	47
Sindh	140,914	14,155,909	19,028,666	4,872,757	100	135	35
N.W.F.P.	74,521	8,388,551	11,061,328	2,672,777	113	148	35
Balochistan	347,190	2,48,678	4,332,376	1,903,698	7	12	5
Federal Capital Islamabad	906	234,813	340,286	105,473	259	376	117
Tribal Area	27,220	2,491,230	2,198,547	-292,683	92	81	-
Pakistan	796,096	65,309,340	84,253,644	18,944,304	82	106	24

Source: computed from the census reports of Pakistan, 1972, 1981.

N.W.F.P. (now KPK) province had second position in this respect. Its population density was 148.4 persons per sq.km. in 1981 and 113 persons per sq.km. in 1972.

It shows an increase of 31.7 per cent in population density during 1972-81. In the province of Balochistan, the density of population was 12.5 persons per sq.km. In 1981 and 7 persons per sq.km. in 1972.

The area of Federal Capital Islamabad is 906 sq.km. with population of 340286 persons in 1981 census. Density of population in this area comes out to be 376.6 per sq.km. in 1981 which was 259.3 persons per sq.km. In 1972 the figures about area, population and population density of Islamabad and FATA are presented in table 4.3. An increase of 116.3 persons per sq.km. In density of population in Islamabad is observed during 1972 to 1981 period. This abnormal

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increase of 156.3 persons per sq.km. was due to shifting of capital of Pakistan from Karachi to Islamabad, due to which the employees of Central government and their families were also shifted from Karachi and other parts of country to Islamabad. In 1981, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (F.A.T.A.) had 3.4 per cent of the total area of Pakistan and 2.6 per cent of the population of Pakistan. In these areas, density of population was 81 persons per sq.km. in 1981, 92 persons per sq.km. In 1972 and which shows a negative change in density which may be due to the factor of enumeration.

Population Distribution at District Level in Pakistan, 1972

In order to study the district level distribution of Pakistan, we have studied 64 districts.

Table 2
Population distribution and density in Pakistan
By districts, 1972

District	Area Sq.Km.	Population	Density (Persons/Sq.Km.)
Karachi South	122	1108122	9083
Lahore	1772	2587621	1460
Karachi West	998	1284992	1280
Karachi East	2407	1213632	504
Faisalabad	9108	4241785	466
Sialkot	5353	2343925	438
Peshwar	4001	1730923	433
Mardan	3137	1204253	384
Category A	26898	15715253	584
Gujranwala	5988	2059755	344
Rawalpindi	5286	1747685	331
Gujrat	5865	1899178	324
Kasur	3995	1186386	297
Hyderabad	5683	1655538	291
Multan	10847	3133009	289
Sheikhpura	5960	16571149	278
Sahiwal	10303	2836889	275
Category B	53927	16175589	300

Abbotabad	3565	977212	274
Vehari	4364	874447	200
Malakand	952	185872	195
Shikarpur	2841	546849	192
Nawabshah	7501	1354168	181
Jhang	8809	1561006	177
Sargodha	12367	2100955	170
Manshra	5957	887606	149
Category C	46356	8488115	183
Jhelum	7179	1051864	147
Jacobabad	5278	709011	134

Bannu	4391	567219	129
Larkana	7423	921457	124
Bahawalnagar	8878	1073891	121
Rahim Yar Khan	11880	1398879	118
Muzaffargarh	14538	1564895	108
Swat	8788	888411	101
Category D	68355	16175589	120
Dir	5282	528526	100
Attock	9789	981734	100
Quetta	2653	252380	95
Badin	6562	607397	93
Kohat	7012	581390	83
Mianwali	13993	1095632	78
Sukkur	11093	838361	76
Sanghar	10729	693407	65
Category E	53927	5578827	83

D.I.Khan	9005	473618	53
D.G. Khan	24240	1142448	47
Kairpur	15736	724935	46
Bahawalpur	24830	1071026	43
Dadu	19016	806080	42
Thatta	17355	676036	39
Nasirabad	5832	223874	38
Tharparkar	28170	1015924	36
Category F	144184	16133941	43
Kohistan	7581	204521	27
Pishin	1112	249154	22
Kachi	1114	221293	20
Kalat	12517	146633	12
Chitral	14850	159000	11
Sibbi	9285	106720	11
Lasbela	12574	125263	10
Loralal	19017	187319	10
Category G	98104	1399903	14
Turbat	22539	147978	7
Zhob	27129	171989	6
Kohlu	17770	108215	6
Gawadar	15216	90820	6
Khuzdar	64891	198125	3
Punjgur	16891	566820	3
Kharan	48051	76800	2
Chagi	55545	65295	1
Category H	263032	916042	4

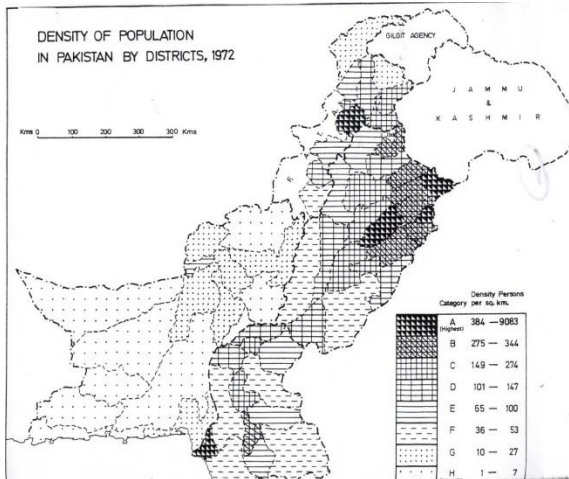
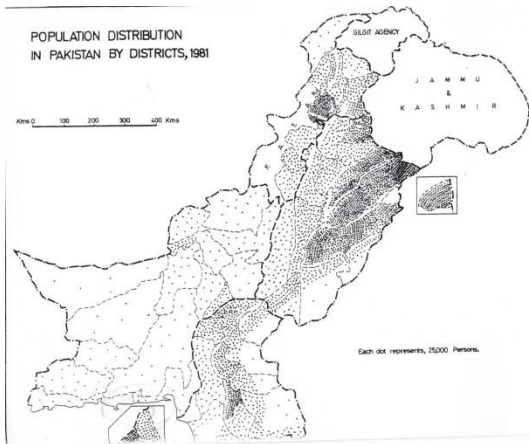
Source: computed from district census reports, 1972.

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Table 3
Population distribution and density in Pakistan
According to categories (regions), 1972

Category	AREA		POPULATION		Density (Persons/per Sq.Km.)
	Sq.Km.	% of Pakistan	Number	% of Pakista n	
A	26898	3.4	15715253	24.1	584
B	53927	6.8	16175589	24.8	300
C	46356	5.8	8488115	13.0	183
D	68355	8.6	8175627	12.5	120
E	67113	8.4	5578827	8.5	83
F	144184	18.1	6133941	8.4	43
G	98104	12.3	1399903	2.1	14
H	263032	33.0	916042	1.4	4
F.C.T.I.	906	0.1	234813	0.4	259
F.A.T.A.	27220	3.4	2491230	3.8	92
Pakistan	796096	100.0	65309340	100.0	52

Source: Computed from Table 4.4 and Census Report of Pakistan, 1972.



Some districts contain more population than others and some have higher density of population than others. This disparity is due mainly to the physical, economic, environmental and political factors. The northern, north western mountainous regions, the Potwar Plateau and the Salt Range, the Balochistan plateau, the south-eastern Punjab, Eastern and south-eastern parts of Sindh are sparsely populated. Moreover, we have examined this situation of 1972-81 by applying different methods.

We have eight categories of the distribution and densities of population have been made as given below.

Category A

This category consists of the districts of Karachi South (9083), Lahore (1460), Karachi West (1280), Karachi East (504), Faisalabad (466), Sialkot (438), Peshawar (433) and Mardan (384). This category has indicated the range of density from 384 to 9083 persons per square kilometer, while its area is 26898 sq. km. and population is 15715253 having an overall density of 584 persons per square kilometer. This category comprises only 3.4 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 24.1 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

All these districts are highly industrialized and urbanized, especially Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad. These three cities altogether accounted for 39 per cent of the total urban population of Pakistan in 1981. Similarly these cities also are the three major industrial centers of Pakistan. Karachi is the biggest industrial centre of Pakistan. Lahore is also a big industrial city. That is why due to excessive job opportunities, these districts have attraction for the skilled as well as for unskilled labour force.

Faisalabad is the second largest centre of Pakistan, especially in the industry of textile which is the back-bone of Pakistan. Same way, Sialkot has its distinctive place in the surgical and sports goods manufactured here are exported to other countries. The district of Mardan is famous for its sugarcane industry as it produces sugar not only from sugarcane but also forms beet. Peshawar being the provincial capital of KPK is an important urban and commercial Centre.

Category B

This category consists of the districts of Gujranwala (344), Rawalpindi (331), Gujrat (324), Kasur (297), Hyderabad (291), Multan (289), Sheikhupura (278) and Sahiwal (275). The total area of this category is 53927 sq.km., and its population is 16175589, whereas the average density of this category is 300 persons per sq. kilometer. This category comprises only 6.8 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 24.8 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

The districts of this category, except Rawalpindi are not only developed in industry but agricultural sector has also been developed. Rawalpindi is situated in **barani** region, so it is comparatively backward in agriculture. Gujranwala,

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Hyderabad, Multan, Sheikhupura and Sahiwal are among the major agricultural centers of Pakistan. These districts produce cotton, rice and wheat. So, these districts have the ability to support more people.

The districts of Gujranwala and Gujrat are not only industrially developed but their agricultural sector has also been developed. The districts of Sahiwal, Sheikhupura, Multan and Kasur are located in the fertile upper Indus plain. Here agriculture and industry are being established. The districts of Multan and Sahiwal are famous for the cotton production, especially Sahiwal which is known as the “Cotton Queen” of Pakistan; Multan is a historical city and is known as the “City Queen” of Pakistan. Multan is a historical city and is known as the “city of shrines”. Hyderabad is among the industrial and urbanized districts of Sindh province.

Category C

This category comprises the districts of Abbotabad (274), Vehari (200), Kalakand (195), Shikarpur (192), Nawabshah (181), Jhang (177), Sargodha (170) and Mansehra (149). This category has indicated the range of density from 149 to 274 persons per square kilometer. It has an area of 46356 sq. km. with a population of 8488115. Its density is 183 persons per square kilometer. This category comprises only 5.8 per cent of Pakistan’s total area while 13.0 per cent of Pakistan’s total population.

The districts of this category are advanced in the field of agriculture especially Vehari, Nawabshah, Shikarpur, Jhang and Sargodha. Abbotabad, Mansehra and Malakand are the mountainous districts of N.W.F.P. in Abbotabad district, the major economic activity is agriculture, forestry and hunting. There is no canal, all the irrigation is done by natural water ways locally known as **sarian, Sarroar** and **Katha**. Haripur is an important plain area. The telephone and telecommunication industry of Haripur is the only industry of its own kind of Pakistan. Malakand consists of various narrow valleys surrounded by hills. These valleys are fertile and productive. Southern part of Malakand is plain and suitable for cultivation. The main source of irrigation in Malakand is Swat River. In Mansehra, among the mountains, the valleys are fertile and a few level tracts of Pakhli and Mangal are important.

Category D

This category comprises of the districts of Jhelum (147), Jacobabad (134), Bannu (129), Larkahan (124), Bahawalnagar (121), Rahimyar Khan (118), Muzaffargarh (108) and Swat (101). This category has indicated a range of density from 101 to 147 persons per square kms., population 817 5627 and density 120 persons per sq.km. This category comprises 8.6 per cent of Pakistan’s total area while 12.5 per cent of Pakistan’s total population.

The density of this category is moderate as compare to the already discussed three categories A, B and C. The districts of this category are not developed in the field of industry but are making progress in agriculture. Jhelum, Jacobabad, Larkana, Bahawalnagar and Muzaffargarh are agricultural districts. Wheat and rice are the major crops cultivated in these districts. Bannu and Rahimyar Khan are becoming industrial centers. Swat is mostly mountainous except Swat valley where agriculture is carried out by primitive methods. Swat is famous for its silk industry.

Category E

This category consists of the districts of Dir (200), Attock (100), Quetta (95), Badin (93), Minawali (78), Sukkur (76) and Sanghar (65). This category has indicated the range of density from 65 to 100 persons per square kilometer, while its area is 67113 square kilometer, population 5578827 and density of 83 persons per sq. km. This category comprises 8.4 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 8.5 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

The districts of this category are backward in the field of industry; exception is the case of Quetta. Quetta being the provincial capital is an important urban, industrial and commercial Centre. In Attock district, people were engaged mainly in agriculture and cottage industries. In case of Badin, Sanghar and Sukkur, variety of crops (Rice, sugarcane, wheat and cotton), are cultivated in these districts. Major part of the District Dir is fairly hills; its northern part is covered with forests. Major economic activity was agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing.

Category F

This category comprises of the districts of D.I. Khan (53), D.G. Khan (47), Khanpur, (46), Bhawalpur (43), Dadu (42), Thatta (39), Nasirabad (38) and Tharparkar (36). This category has indicated the range of density form 36 to 53 persons per square kilometer. The area of this category is 144184 km, population 6133941, and density 43 persons per square kilometer, which is low than the previous categories. This category comprises 18.1 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 9.4 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

The districts of this category are also backward in industry and agriculture. Tharpakar, Bahawalpur and Thatta are the part of the desert. D.G. Khan and D.I. Khan was agricultural district. In the case of Dadu and Thatta sectors, agriculture and industry were found but less developed.

Category G

This category consists of the districts of Kohistan (27), Pishin (22), Kacchi (20), Kalat (12), Chitra (11), Lasbela (10) and Loralai (10). This category has indicated the range of density from 10 to 27 persons per square kilometer. The area of this

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category is 98104 square kilometers, population 1399903 and density 14 persons per sq.km. This category comprises 12.3 per cent of Pakistan's total area while only 2.1 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

Besides, Kohistan and Chitral are other districts of this category are from Balochistan. Chitral is a land of High Mountain ranges and deep valleys; it is surrounded by Hindukush, Mushaber and Hindu Raj Range. Kohistan, as the name signifies is the area of high mountains. Rests of the district are from Balochistan. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area but more than 50 cent is mountainous.

So, there is no particular sign of agriculture and industry. That is why, the density of population is very low.

Category H

This category consists of the districts of Turbat (7), Zhob (6), Kohlu (6), Gawadar (6), Khuzdar (3), Panjgur (3), Kharan (2) and Chghai (1). This category has indicated the range of density from 1 to 7 persons per square kilometer. The area of this category is 263032 sq.km., population 916042 persons per square km. and density is 4 persons per square kilometer. This category comprises 33.0 per cent of Pakistan's total area while only 1.4 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

All of these districts are form Balochistan province. This category has the lowest density among the eight categories as well as in Pakistan. The reasons are the same as discussed in the previous categories.

Population Distribution and Density in Pakistan Districts wise 1981

Eight categories of the distribution and density of population are made as given below.

Category A

This category comprises of the districts of Karachi South (11445) Lahore (2001), Karachi West (2160), Karachi East (783), Peshawar (570), Faisalabad (515), Sialkot (507) and Mardan (480).

The area of this category is 26989, sq, km population 2017822 and density 750 person per sq.km. This category comprises only 3.4 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 23.9 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

Table 4
Population distribution and density in Pakistan
Districts wise, 1972

District	Area Sq.Km.	Population	Density (Persons/Sq.Km.)
Karachi South	122	1396271	11445
Lahore	1772	2544942	2001
Karachi West	998	21556270	2160

Karachi East	2407	185443	783
Faisalabad	9108	2281752	570
Sialkot	5353	4689162	515
Peshwar	4001	2711482	507
Mardan	3137	1506500	480
Category A	26898	20171822	750
Gujranwala	5988	2675937	447
Rawalpindi	5286	2121450	401
Gujrat	5865	2254699	384
Kasur	3995	1528002	383
Hyderabad	5683	4079753	376
Multan	10847	2054159	362
Sheikhpura	5960	2110428	354
Sahiwal	10303	3612135	351
Category B	53927	20436563	379

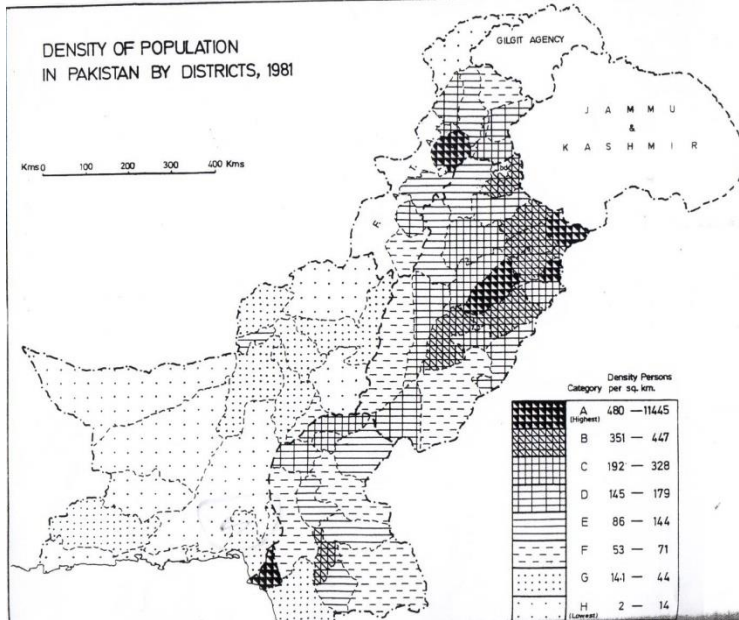
Abbotabad	3565	116932	328
Vehari	4364	1328808	305
Malakand	952	257797	271
Nawabshah	8809	1978263	225
Shikarpur	7501	1647143	220
Jhang	2841	619576	218
Sargodha	12367	2553215	207
Jacobabad	5278	1012476	192
Category C	45677	10566710	231
Mansehra	5957	1066588	179
Jhelum	7179	1167220	163
Bannu	4391	710786	162
Bahawalnagar	8878	1373747	155
Rahim Yar Khan	7423	1138580	153
Muzaffargarh	14538	2164253	148
Dir	5282	767409	145
Category D	65528	10230034	170
Quetta	2653	381566	144
Swat	8788	1233001	140
Badin	6562	776614	118
Attock	9789	1144059	117
Kohat	7012	758772	108
Sukkur	11093	1098240	99
Sanghar	10729	1098240	86
Category E	68219	7692395	113

D.I.Khan	9005	635494	71
Nasirabad	5832	394454	68
D.G. Khan	24240	1582584	65
Kairpur	15736	981190	62

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Kohistan	7581	465237	61
Bahawalpur	24830	1453438	59
Dadu	19016	1077053	57
Tharparkar	28170	1501882	53
Category F	134410	8091332	60
Thatta	17355	761039	44
Pishin	11112	378597	34
Kachi	11114	305215	28
Kalat	12517	341193	27
Loralai	19071	387898	20
Turbat	22539	349467	17
Lasbela	12574	188139	15
Sibbi	9285	130678	14.1
Category G	115567	2872226	25
Chitral	14850	208560	14
Zhob	27129	361647	13
Kohlu Agency	16891	160750	10
Gawadar	15216	112385	7
Khuzdar	64891	386802	6
Kharan	48051	128040	3
Chagi	50545	120455	2
Category H	255343	1653729	6

Source: Computed from District Census Reports, 1981.



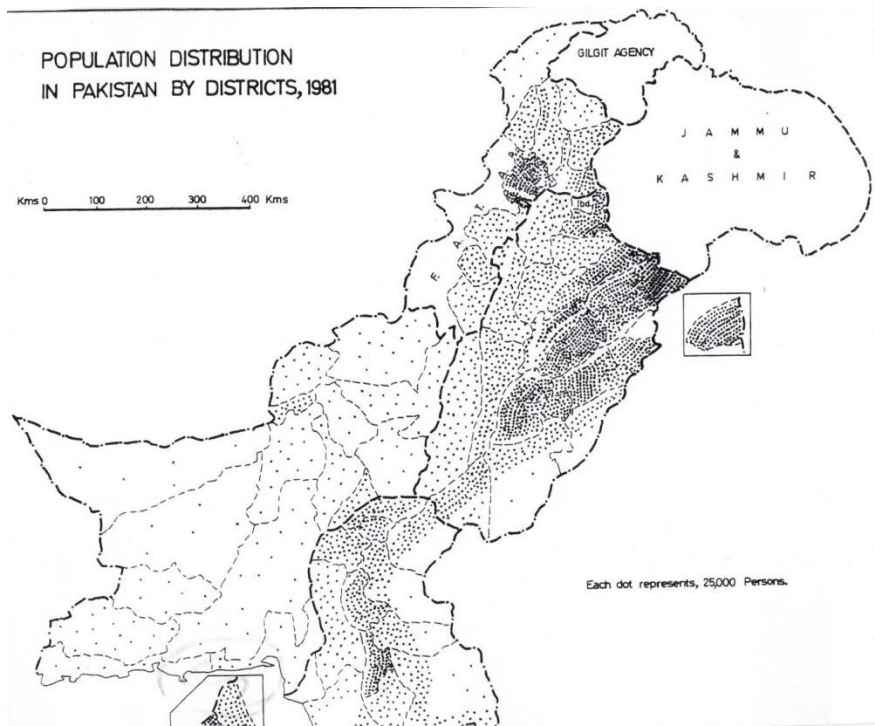


TABLE 5
Population distribution and density in Pakistan
According to categories (regions), 1981

Category	AREA		POPULATION		Density (Persons/ per Sq.Km.)
	Sq.Km.	% of Pakistan	Number	% of Pakist an	
A	26898	3.4	20171822	23.9	750
B	53927	61.8	20436563	24.3	379
C	45677	5.8	10566710	12.6	231
D	65528	8.2	10230034	12.1	170
E	68219	8.6	7692395	9.1	113
F	134410	16.9	8091332	9.6	60
G	115567	14.6	2872226	3.4	25
H	255343	32.1	1653729	2.0	6
F.C.T.I.	906	0.1	340286	0.4	376
F.A.T.	27220	3.4	2198547	2.6	81
A.					
Pakista n	796,096	100.0	842,536,44	100.0	106

Source: Computed from Table 4 and Census Report of Pakistan, 1981.

As all the districts of this category are same as in the "A" category of 1972, so the reasons are same as described earlier,

Category B

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This category consists of the districts of Gujranwala (447), Rawalpindi (401), Gujrat (384), Kasur (383), Multan (376), Hyderabad (362), Sheikhupura (354) and Sahiwal (351).

The area of this category is 53927, sq, km population 20436563 and density 379 persons per sq. km. This category comprises only 6.8 per cent of Pakistan's total area. But 24.3 per cent of Pakistan's total population which is the highest among the eight categories. [Table 4.7]. All the districts of this category are same as in the "B" category of 1972, so, the reasons are same as described earlier.

Category C

This category comprises of the districts of Abbotabad (328), Vehari (305), Jhang (225), Nawabshah (220), Shikarpur (218), Sargodha (207) and Jacobabad (192).

The area of this category is 45677, sq, km population 1-0566710 and density 231 persons per sq. km. This category comprises only 5.8 per cent of Pakistan's total area and 12.6 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

There is a change of one district as compared to the "C" category of 1972, i.e. district of Mansehra has dropped its position from "C" category replacing Jacobabad from "D" category. [Table 4.4 + Table 4.6]. Jacobabad is comparatively more fertile and facilities district than Mansehra, so it may be due to this reason that Jacobabad has improved its category.

Category D

This category comprises of the districts of Mansehra (179), Jhelum (163), Bannu (162), Bahawalnagar (155), Rahimyar Khan (155). Larkana (157), Muzaffargarh (148) and Dir (145).

The area of this category is 65528, sq, km population 10230034 and density 170 persons per sq. km. This category comprises of 8.2 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 12.1 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

As discussed in the above category that Mansehra has dropped its position from C category to D category. Besides it, there is only one change in D category as Dir has improved its category from E to D and Swat has- dropped its position from D to E.

Category E

This category consists of the districts of Quetta (144), Badin (118), Attock (117), Kohat (108), Sukkur (99), Mianwali (98) and Sanghar (86).

The area of this category is 68219, sq, km population 7692395 and density 113 persons per sq. km. This category comprises of 8.6 per cent of Pakistan's total area while 9.1 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

Category F

This category comprises the districts of D.I.Khan (71), Nasirabad (65), Khairpur <62), Kohistan (61), Bahawalpur (59), Dadu (57) and Tharparkar (53).

The area of this category is 134410, sq, km population 8091332 and density 60 persons per sq. km. This category comprises of 16.9 per cent of Pakistan's total area and 9.6 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

There is a change of one district as compared with "F" category of 1972 i.e. district of Thatta has dropped its position from "F" category to "G" category replaced by Kohistan. As Kohistan has improved its category from Q to F. [Table 4.4 + Table 4.6].

Category-G

This category consists of the districts of Thatta (44), Pishin (34), Kacchi (28), Kalat (27), Loralai (20), Turbat (17), Lasbela (15) and Sibi (14.1).

The area of this category is 115567, sq, km population 2872226 and density 25 persons per sq. km. This category consists of 14.6 per cent of Pakistan's total area and 3.4 per cent of total population Pakistan

There is change of two districts as compared to the G category of 1972 I.e. districts of Thatta and Turbst. Thatta has dropped its position from F category to G category replacing Kohistan, which has improved its position from G category to P category, while Turbat has improved its position from H category to G category. Turbat has taken place of Chitral district. So, Chitral has dropped its position from G category to H category.

Category H

This category comprises of the districts of Chitral (14.0), Zhob (13), Kohlu Agency (10), Panjgur (10), Gawadar (7), Khuzdar (6), Kharan (3) and Chaghai (2).

The area of this category is 255343 sq. km population 1653729 and density 6 persons per sq. km. This category comprises of 33.01 per cent of Pakistan's total area and 1.4 per cent of Pakistan's total population.

There is a change of only one district as compared to the H category of 1972, i.e. the district of Chitral has dropped its position from G category to H category replacing Turbat, which has improved its position from H category to G category.

Generally speaking, Pakistan consists of irrigated land, plateaus, mountains and the deserts. The physiographic units have much influence on the distribution of population. Obviously, irrigated areas have more density of population than the remaining areas. As indicated in the above mentioned categories of population density, the irrigated areas consisting the district of Faisalabad, Lahore, Gujranwala, Hyderabad etc. have the highest densities. On the other hand, districts like Bahawalpur, Tharparkar, Sanghar which are the part of deserts and mostly the

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districts of Balochistan which are the part of plateau and have the lowest densities in the country. Karachi South (2354), Karachi West (873), Lahore (200), Peshawar (570), Faisalabad (515) and Sialkot (507) were the most densely populated districts. On the other hand, Bahawalpur (59), Khanpur (17), Tharparkar (24), Sanghar (23), Thatta (6), Chitral (3), Chaghi, Kharan and Gawadar (1), Sibi (2) and Khuzdar (3) were the least populated districts. This analog clearly reveals the influence of economic condition and physiography on the distribution of population.

Change in Population Density in Pakistan By Districts 1972-81

In order to study the change in population density in Pakistan by districts (1972-81) again the districts of Pakistan are divided into eight categories (octal division).

Category A

This category consists of the districts of Karachi South (2362), Karachi West (880), Lahore (541), Karachi East (279), Peshawar (137), Vehari (105), Gujranwala (103) and Mardan (96).

Besides Karachi South and Lahore all other districts of this category have improved their rank in terms of population size. Obviously, these districts have shown highest change in density during the period of 1972-81. In case of Karachi South and Mardan, both districts have dropped their rank from 22nd to 24th and 19th to 21st.

Table :6

Districts	Area sq.km.	Density		Change 1972-81
		1972	1981	
CATEGORY A				
Karachi south	122	9083	11445	2362
Karachi west	992	1280	2160	880
Lahore	1772	1460	2001	541
Karachi east	2407	504	783	279
Peshawar	4001	433	570	137
Vehari	4364	200	305	105
Gujranwala	5988	344	447	103
Mardan	3137	384	480	96
CATEGORY B				
Multan	10847	289	376	87
Kasur	3995	297	383	86
Sheikhupura	5960	278	354	76
sahiwal	10303	275	351	76
Malakand	952	195	271	76
Haderabad	5683	291	362	71
Rawalapindi	5286	331	401	70
Sialkot	5353	438	507	69
CATEGORY C				
Gujrat	5865	324	384	60
Jacobabad	5278	134	192	58
Abbotabad	3565	274	328	54
Faisalabd	9108	466	515	49

Quetta	2653	95	144	49
Jhang	8809	177	225	48
Dir	5282	100	145	45
Muzaffargahr	14538	108	148	40

CATEGORY D

Nawabshah	7501	181	220	39
Swat	8788	101	140	39
Sargodha	12367	170	207	37
Rahimyar khan	11880	118	155	37
Bahawalnagar	8878	121	155	34
Kohistan	7581	27	61	34
Bannu	4391	129	162	33
Mansehra	5957	149	179	30

CATEGORY E

Nasirabad	5832	38	68	30
Larkana	7423	124	153	29
Shikarpur	2841	275	354	26
Badin	6562	93	118	25
Kohar	7012	83	108	25
Sukkur	11093	76	99	23
Sanghar	10729	65	86	21
Mianwali	13993	78	98	20

CATEGORY F

D.I. Khan	9005	53	71	18
D.G khan	24240	47	65	18
Attock	9789	100	117	17
Tharparkar	28170	36	53	17
Jhelum	7179	147	163	16
Khairpur	15736	46	62	16
Bahawalpur	8878	43	59	16
Dadu	19016	42	57	15

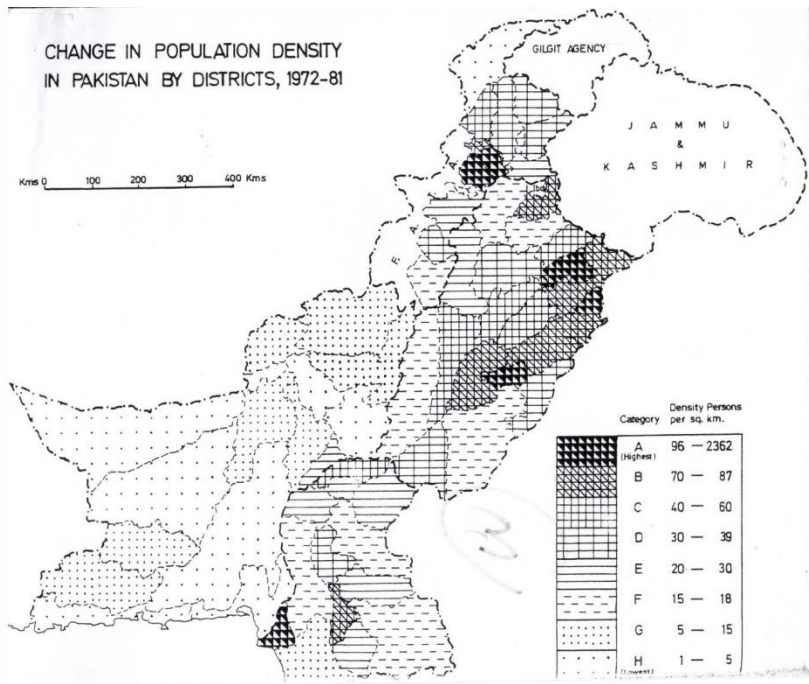
CATEGORY G

Kalat	12517	12	27	15
Pishin	11112	22	34	12
Loralai	19071	10	20	10
Turbat	22539	7	17	10
Kacchi	11114	20	28	8
Zhob	27129	6	13	7
Panjgur	16891	3	10	7
Thatta	17355	39	44	5

CATEGORY H

Lasbela	12574	10	15	5
Kohlu	17770	6	10	4
Chitral	14850	11	14	3
Sibbi	9285	11	14	3
Khuzdar	64891	3	6	3
Gawadar	15216	6	7	1
Kharan	48051	2	3	1
Chaghi	50545	1	2	1

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In terms of area, Karachi South is the smallest district of Pakistan, as density is directly and related to area, that is why Karachi South has shown the highest change of density Lahore has maintained its rank that is 4th in terms of population size, it also has shown change of density of A category, which is highest among the eight categories.

Category B

This category comprises of the districts of Multan (87), Kasur (86), Sheikhupura (76), Sahiwal (76), Malakand (76), Hyderabad (71), Rawalpindi (70) and Sialkot (69).

The districts of Multan, Sahiwal, Sialkot and Kasur have maintained their ranks, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 20th respectively, in terms of population size, so obviously, the districts have shown a change of density of B category. The districts of Rawalpindi, Sheikhupura, Hyderabad and Malakand have dropped their ranks but these districts have also shown change of density of B category. In case Rawalpindi, Sheikhupura and Hyderabad the reason these three districts are among the 1st fourteen districts in terms of population size in 1981. In case of Maiakand again the area of the district has affected the density as Malakand is the second smallest district after Karachi of Pakistan.

Category C

This category comprises of the districts of Gujrat (60), Jacobabad (58), Abbotabad (54), Faisalabad (49), Quetta (49), Jhang (48), Dir (45) and Muzaffargarh (40).

Faisalabad is the largest district of Pakistan in terms of population size. Gujrat is the ninth largest district of Pakistan and Jhang is the fifteenth largest district of Pakistan in terms of population size, so, these districts have shown the change of density of C category which is the 3rd highest among the eight categories. Abbotabad has maintained its rank in terms of population while Muzaffargarh, Dir and Jacobabad have improved their ranks in terms of population size during 1972-81.

Category D

This category comprises of the districts of Nawabshah (39), Swat (39), Sargodha (37), Rahimyar Khan (37), Bahawalnagar (34), Kohistan (34), Bannu (33) and Mansehra (30).

This category has shown a moderate change of density indicating the range 30 to 39 persons per sq. km. Six out of eight districts of this category have dropped their ranks in terms of population size, while only two districts of Swat and Kohistan have improved their ranks from 31st to 28th and 50th to 46th in terms of population size.

Category E

This category consists of the districts of Nasirabad (30), Larkana (29), Shikarpur (26), Badin (25), Kohat (25), Sukkur (23), Sanghar (21) and Mianwali (20).

This category has also shown a moderate change of density as the range of density of this category is from 20 to 30 persons per sq. km. Five out of eight districts of this category have dropped their ranks, in terms of population size. Only Badin and Sukkur have improved their ranks while Sanghar has maintained the previous rank during the period of (1972-81).

Category F

This category consists of the districts of D.I.Khan (18), D.G.Khan (18), Attock (17), Tharparkar (17), Jhelum (16), Bahawalpur (16) and Dadu (15).

This category has shown low change of density, indicating the range of 15 to 18 persons per sq. km. although five out of the eight districts have improved their rank in terms of population size. They are D.G.Khan, Tharparkar, Bahawalpur, Dadu and D.I. Khan, while Khanpur, Attock and Jhelum have dropped their ranks in terms of population size.

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Category G

This category comprises of the districts of Kalat (15), Pishin (12), Loralai (10), Turbat (10), Kacchi (8), Zhob (7), PanJgur (7) and Thatta (5).

This category has shown a very low change of density indicating a range of 5 to 15 persons per sq. km. Besides Thatta, rest of the seven districts are from Balochistan province which is the least populated province of Pakistan. All of the districts of this category have their above 40 out of the sixty-four districts in terms of population size.

Category H

This category comprises of the districts of Lasbela (5), Kohlu (4), Chitral (3), Sibi (3), Khuzdar (3), Qawadar (1), Kharan (1) and Chaghl (1).

This category has shown a lowest change of density indicating the range of 1 to 5 persons per sq. km. In this last category seven out of eight districts (except Chitral) are from least populated province Balochistan. All of the districts of this category have their rank above 48 out of the sixty-four districts in terms of population size. (Table 6)

Summary and Conclusion

After outlining briefly the unevenness of world's population, the factors affecting population distribution in any region particularly in Pakistan have been narrated. These factors include water availability, relief, climate, soils and economic activities etc. After that we have focused our attention on the distribution of population in Pakistan and change over in selected period i.e., 1972-81. This study reveals that the population of Pakistan in 1972 was 65.3 million, of which the leading province, i.e., Punjab had 37.6 million or 57.6 per cent. On the other hand, Balochistan contains 43.6 per cent of country's total area but has only 3.7 per cent of the national population. Nevertheless, this situation is slightly changed In 1981 and the share of the Punjab declined to 56.1 while Balochistan has shown a remarkable change in its population and its share to Pakistan raised to 5.2 per cent from 3.7 per cent in 72.

More or less same situation prevails in the other two provinces i.e. Sindh and K.P.K.

After analyzing change in the overall population density in Pakistan we have examined the change in population density at provincial level where according to the 1972 and 1981 censuses data, Punjab had the maximum population density whereas Balochistan had the minimum. Punjab had 230 persons per sq. km. in 1981, while it was 183 in 1972. The per cent increase of population in Punjab was 26.5 per cent during 1972-81. The population density of Sindh in 1981 was 135 persons per sq. km. and 82 in 1972 census. Similarly in K.P.K the density was 148.4 persons per sq. km. in 1981 and 113 in 1972. In the province of Balochistan,

the density of population was 12.5 persons per sq. km. in 1981 while it was 7 in 1972 census.

Further situation was revealed by studying the population distribution at district level in the country in 1972 and 1981 censuses. For this purpose, we have made eight categories of the 64 districts of Pakistan. We can conclude that within Pakistan, there is a fairly high degree of variation in the distribution of population, some districts contain more population than others and some have higher density of population than others. This disparity is mainly due to the physical, economic, environmental and political factors. Out of these factors only economic development is the most important factor contributing to the variations in population density. The "backward areas such as Bahawalpur, D.G.Khan, Dadu, Khanpur, Chitral and Loralai and most of the districts of the Balochistan have the low population density. While on the other hand, highly developed areas as Karachi, Lahore Faisalabad, Hyderabad, and Peshawar etc. have very high density.

In the end, changes in population density in Pakistan has been discussed, by districts during the selected period i.e., 1972-81.

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Biographical Note

Munawar Sabir is Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
