

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

Pakistan

2018

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KEY OBJECTIVES

The aims of the International Men and Gender Equality Survey – Pakistan (Pak-IMAGES) are to carry out a comprehensive literature review and a baseline survey to learn about the perceptions, practices, and behaviors related to gender equality and GBV that currently prevail in communities. The study also seeks to capture variations in these perceptions and practices by geographic location as well as other socio-demographic characteristics.

The broad objectives of this baseline study are to:

- Provide a basis for adapting the design of globally tried interventions related to gender equality and GBV involving men and boys according to regional realities, leading to more tailored and effective interventions; and
- Provide a benchmark to evaluate changes after the interventions have been fully implemented.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives of the study are to:

- Assess the perceptions, attitudes, and practices related to gender equality and GBV among men and women in the ten study districts.
- Assess the prevalence and identify the factors that are associated with GBV, such as urban/rural residence, education, wealth, and women's empowerment status;
- Examine factors associated with increased or decreased risk of inequitable gender attitudes and practices and GBV.
- Suggest strategies to promote gender equality and prevent GBV, specifically for changing attitudes towards such violence.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The Pak-IMAGES was complemented by a qualitative study and a literature review.

Pak-IMAGES Survey

Three structured questionnaires based on the IMAGES questionnaire were used in the survey, including one each for married men, unmarried men, and married women. The IMAGES questionnaire was adapted with some essential modifications to make it suitable to and to reflect Pakistan's context, taking care to retain as much international comparability as possible. Adaptation of the IMAGES questionnaire was carried out by the Population Council in consultation with Rutgers and Rozan. The revised questionnaire was shared with Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprised of senior professionals and experts from academia/research, NGOs, and government sectors, both at the national and provincial levels for their feedback.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaire for married women was mostly similar to the one for married men, but the questionnaire for unmarried men did not include sections on relationship experiences with spouse/intimate partner or on parenting.

The Pak-IMAGES questionnaire included the following main sections, comprising more than 150 questions and more than 390 variables in total:

- Identification
- Socio-demographic information
- Workplace
- Childhood experiences
- Relations between men and women (GEM Scale)
- Relationship experiences with spouse
- Parenting
- Health, sexuality and quality of life
- Traditional practices against women
- Women's participation in public life
- Laws and policies
- Opinion on Gender-based Violence and Recommendations

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DATA COLLECTION

A part of the PAK-IMAGES questionnaire includes the GEM Scale, which measures gender attitudes across various domains, such as gender norms, violence, sexuality, masculinities, and reproductive health. The original GEM Scale consists of 24 statements, which are adapted in each country to reflect local cultural and social realities. The scale was similarly adapted for the PAK-IMAGES study.

The following four statements were added to the scale to reflect certain cultural and social practices or norms prevailing at the country or regional level:

- A woman should not go out for work
- A woman alone is responsible for determining the sex of the child
- Only a woman is responsible for conceiving a child
- A man has a right to remarry if his wife is continuously giving birth to daughters.

2 DATA COLLECTION

After obtaining approval on research protocols from the Population Council Institutional Review Board (IRB) in New York, the questionnaires were pretested twice. The first pretest was carried out by the Population Council core study team before the training of the field data collection team, and the second was performed after the training, prior to going to the field. The pretests facilitated further refinement of the questionnaires in terms of flow and phrasing of questions.

Literature Review on Gender-based Violence

Existing studies and some grey literature were reviewed for evidence about the prevalence of GBV in Pakistan as well as interventions that have been undertaken to address this issue and their effectiveness. Findings of the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012-13 were analyzed. The review also drew on literature about interventions in similar settings in neighboring countries, especially India. In addition, current policies and strategies adopted in both the public and private sectors to address the GBV issue in Pakistan were reviewed.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Literature for review was identified using online search engines, such as Jstor, Google Scholar, Science Direct, Pop Line and PubMed. Specific terms used in these searches included ‘Pakistan,’ ‘South Asia,’ ‘Gender-based Violence,’ ‘males,’ ‘women empowerment,’ and ‘gender inequality,’ among others. The complete literature review has been compiled as a separate document titled “Literature Review: Gender-based Violence in Pakistan (See Annex B). Where relevant, its findings are incorporated to complement the analysis of primary data in this report.

Qualitative Study of Practices and Perceptions related to Gender Equity and Gender-based Violence

To complement the quantitative data collected through Pak-IMAGES and to triangulate findings about gender-based violence, qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions with communities. A total of 20 FGDs were conducted—two in each study district, including one with men and one with women. Eight to ten individuals participated in each discussion, up to 190 men and women included in the FGDs overall.

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DATA COLLECTION

The guidelines for conducting the FGDs were developed by the Population Council in consultation with Rutgers and Rozan, reviewed and approved by the study's Technical Advisory Group and the Council's Institutional Review Board in the same manner as the IMAGES questionnaires. The FGDs were conducted by the same trained teams that collected the survey data.

The FGDs were conducted in tandem with the main survey. For facilitation in organizing the discussions, the data collection teams sought help from Union Councilors, teachers at local schools, other influential community members, NGOs working in the area, and workers of community-based organizations and public sector programmes. Care was taken to ensure that the FGD participants were homogeneous in terms of socio-economic and residential status.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The FGDs were aimed at gathering insights about local perceptions, practices, and trends regarding gender equality and GBV; the types of violence perpetrated against women and girls and contextual factors; and effects of GBV on women's health and other consequences. FGD participants were also asked who they felt were the most common perpetrators and who could be part of efforts to reduce or prevent such violence. Separate discussions with men and women enabled a focus on male and female perspectives.

Suggestions were specifically solicited from both groups regarding how men could be involved in addressing and ending GBV in households and communities.

2 DATA COLLECTION

The discussions were transcribed verbatim in the field to preserve their essence. All transcriptions were translated into English so that all the data could be coded using NVIVO-10 software. The nodes in the software contained carefully developed thematic areas under which all information was organized for analysis. The thematic areas were based on the FGD guidelines, and incorporated new themes that had emerged during the discussions. The findings of the qualitative study have been triangulated with the quantitative data in the report where appropriate.

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SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The Pak-IMAGES sample consists of 640 married men, 297 unmarried men, and 300 women ages 18-49. More men than women have been included in the sample since the study's primary focus is men and masculinities. As many of the questions to women respondents were about husbands' attitudes and practices, only married women are included.

To reflect regional perspectives, the sample for Pak-IMAGES has been drawn from ten districts from the major four provinces of Pakistan, i.e., Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. In view of the limited scope of the study and mirror the proportion of population size by province, three districts were selected from Punjab, three from Sindh, and two each from KP and Balochistan. From Punjab and Sindh, the two major provinces, the study includes 380 and 376 respondents, respectively, which provides estimates of GBV within a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. From KP and Balochistan, 250 and 231 respondents, respectively, are included, providing estimates of GBV derived from the PDHS national estimate within a 5% margin of error and 90% confidence level.

3

SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Another consideration in district selection was to reflect the variation in GBV prevalence across the country. Since DHS data are not representative at district level in terms of GBV prevalence, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was used as a proxy. The rationale for doing so is that the DHS shows strong associations of GBV prevalence with low levels of education and poverty among Pakistani women.

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RESPONSE RATE

No additional information available in this section.

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

No additional information available in this section.

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MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

Each study team comprised of six male members and two female members, including seven enumerators and one supervisor for sampling, managing the field, and checking interviews for quality. All candidates had experience of data collection for both qualitative and quantitative social research. They were university graduates, mostly residents of the sampled districts, who were well versed with the indigenous culture, customs, beliefs, and had prior experience of working on studies conducted by the Population Council. Women were interviewed by female interviewers, while men were interviewed by male interviewers.

The field teams were monitored throughout by the Council's senior research staff. The staff joined the teams from the very first day of the fieldwork to ensure a smooth start. During the fieldwork, they frequently visited the study sites to ensure that all protocols were being properly followed till the end of the field activity. Field staff were provided regular feedback on their questionnaires to improve the quality of data collected.

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INTERVIEWER TRAINING

Members of the data collection team underwent eight days' of intensive preparatory training. The training, provided by the Population Council, covered the study's objectives and key aspects of its design, use of data collection instruments, the meaning of informed consent and how it was to be obtained, concepts of privacy and confidentiality, and research ethics. In addition, specific sessions on gender sensitization, masculinity, and gender-related laws and policies were also carried out by a gender expert, and interviewers were especially trained on how to conduct interviews with a culturally sensitive approach.

During the training, interviewing skills were strengthened through role plays. As part of the training, the study tools and data collection strategy were pretested. Each of the study tools was discussed thoroughly in the debriefing sessions to address issues and challenges that came up during the pretest.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

A total of four study teams (one for each province) were hired to conduct the PAK-IMAGES interviews, as well as FGDs for the qualitative study.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

Ethical approval for the Pak- IMAGES study was obtained from the Population Council's Institutional Review Board prior to start of fieldwork. During data collection, informed consent from the respondents was obtained after providing an in-depth briefing on the study, its objectives, procedures, and usage of information. The approximate time required for the interviews and group discussion and the possible risks (if any) respondents might face was also explained. Assurance was given to the respondents about the anonymity and confidentiality of their responses, which were strictly ensured. Focus group discussions were also conducted in settings where auditory privacy could be maintained. Participation was completely voluntary, and respondents were not compensated in any way.

Interviewers had been specially trained in how to ask sensitive questions and answer to respondents in distress. To address any potential emotional disturbance during interviews or in case any respondent reported violence and asked for or needed assistance or services, they were provided the number of the Rozan Helpline for survivors of GBV/sexual violence.

11 NOTES ON STUDY

No additional information available in this section.



IMAGES

International
Men and Gender
Equality Survey