

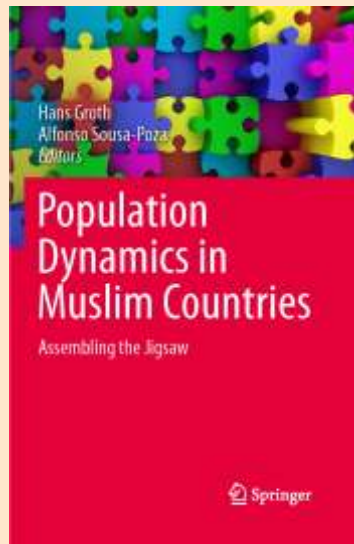


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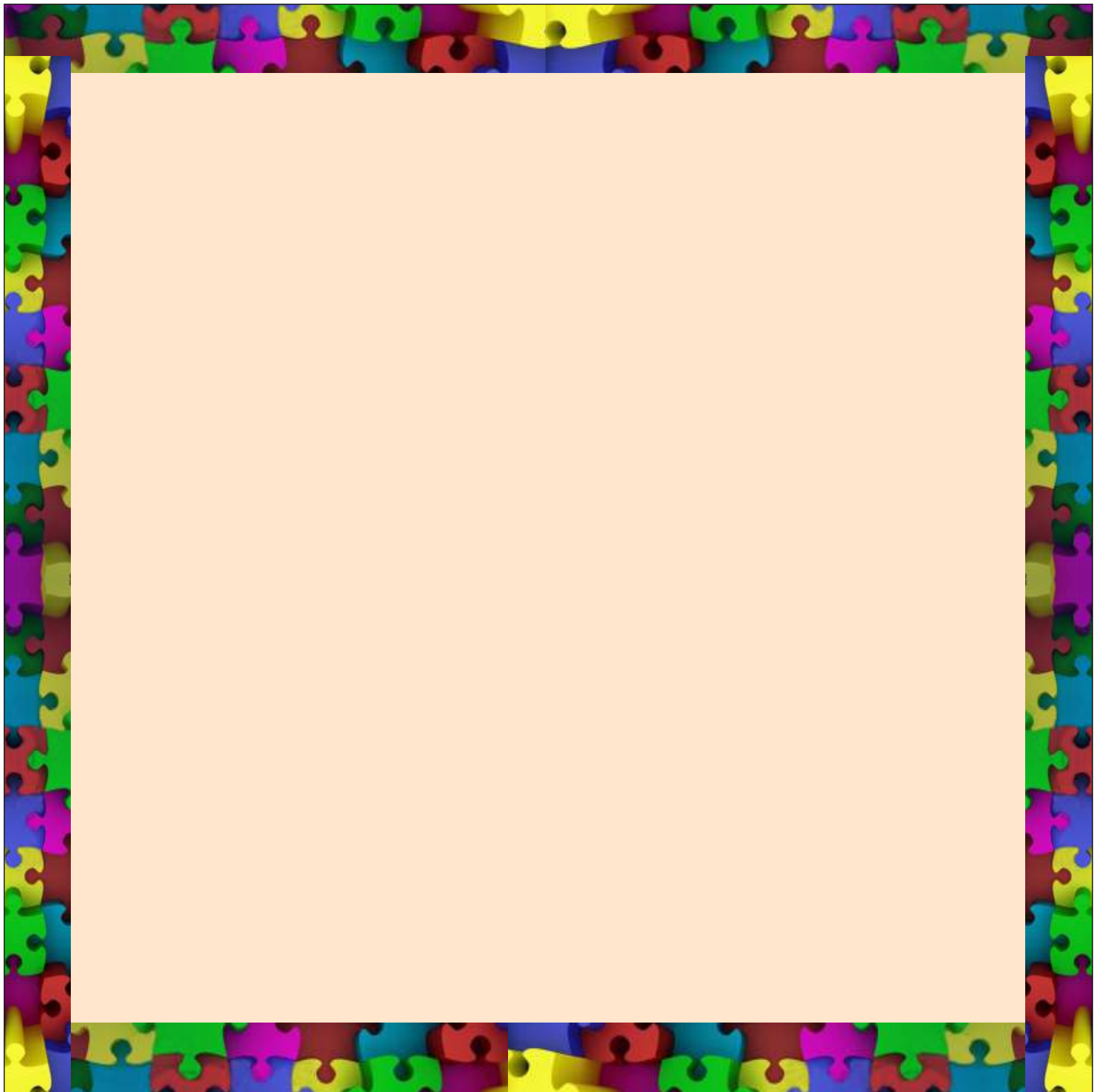


Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

Book Launch of Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries: Assembling the Jigsaw



October 24, 2012, Islamabad

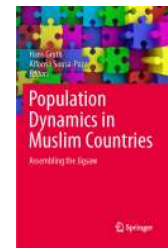




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Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

 Population Council



The Population Council, Pakistan in collaboration
with the Embassy of Switzerland, Islamabad

Invites you to a Book Launch on

by Dr. Hans Groth, Editor of the book and
Chairman, Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum, Switzerland

followed by a
Panel Discussion

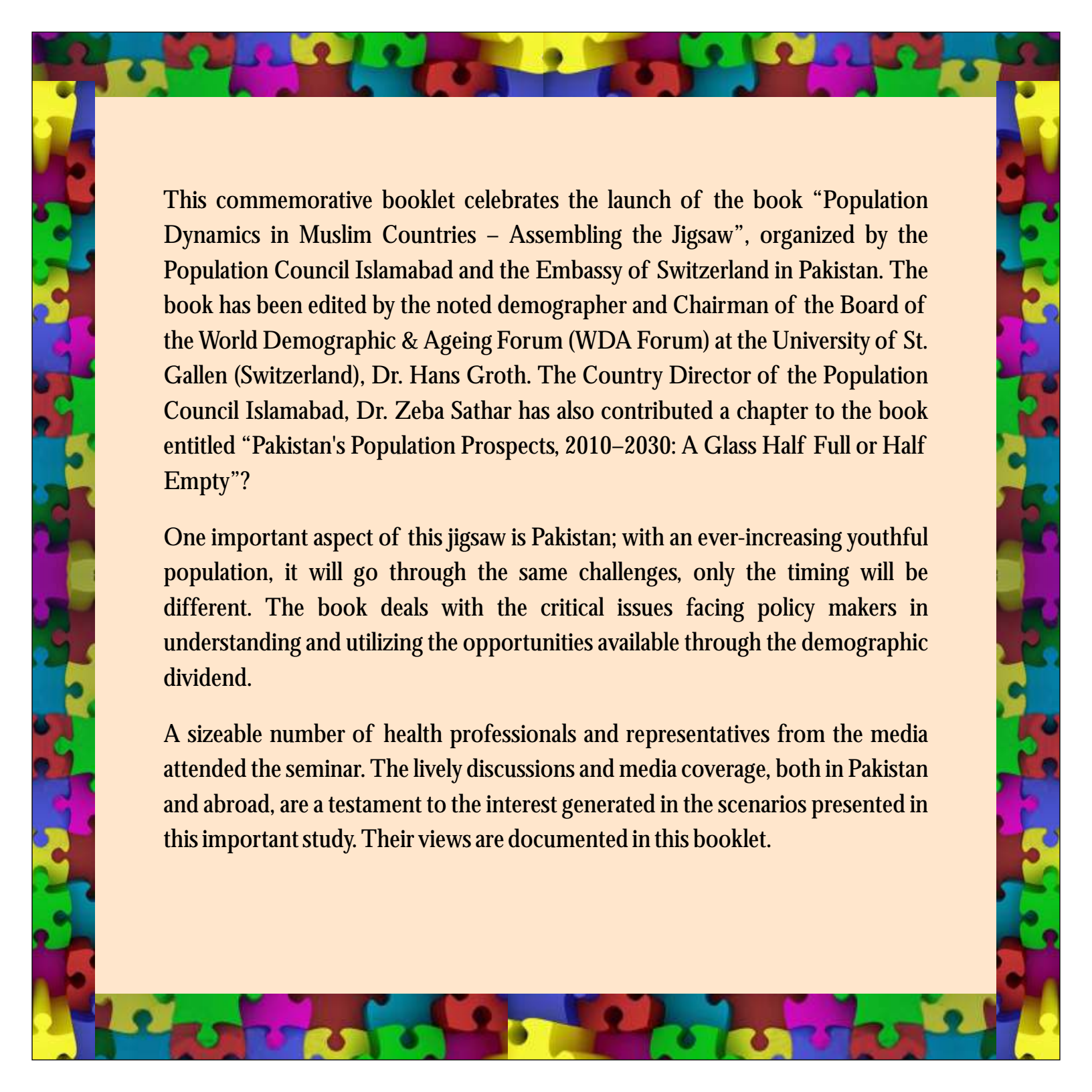
On Demographic Issues in Muslim Countries, focusing on Pakistan

Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Crystall Ball Room
Marriott Hotel, Islamabad

Program overleaf
Please bring this card with you.

RSVP: Imran Mahmood
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This commemorative booklet celebrates the launch of the book “Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries – Assembling the Jigsaw”, organized by the Population Council Islamabad and the Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan. The book has been edited by the noted demographer and Chairman of the Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum) at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland), Dr. Hans Groth. The Country Director of the Population Council Islamabad, Dr. Zeba Sathar has also contributed a chapter to the book entitled “Pakistan's Population Prospects, 2010–2030: A Glass Half Full or Half Empty”?

One important aspect of this jigsaw is Pakistan; with an ever-increasing youthful population, it will go through the same challenges, only the timing will be different. The book deals with the critical issues facing policy makers in understanding and utilizing the opportunities available through the demographic dividend.

A sizeable number of health professionals and representatives from the media attended the seminar. The lively discussions and media coverage, both in Pakistan and abroad, are a testament to the interest generated in the scenarios presented in this important study. Their views are documented in this booklet.








Drawing a critical relationship between the role of Muslim clerics and demographic change in Islamic countries, this book is indispensable reading for anyone who seeks to understand the importance of the Islamic world in the global village.

***Klaus Schwab,
Founder and Chairman,
World Economic Forum (WEF), Geneva***

The book establishes, fertility decline can be quite rapid in Muslim countries with the pace determined by socio-economic development and official family planning policies. The bulk of the population is moving from being economically dependent to becoming potential earners. But there is nothing inevitable that this will produce a demographic dividend, unless this surge in the working age population is matched by adequate employment.

***Dr. Maleeha Lodhi,
Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the USA and
High Commissioner to the UK***


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This book is added value to the readers' understanding of these young societies' behavior towards major indicators that affect quality of life, justice and access to services.

*Maha Khatib,
Former Minister and Senator,
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

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On the wake of the Arab Spring, scholars have diverged on their perspectives of its consequences. What has been missing in these discussions though is the consideration of the region's demographic structures. Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries fills this gap and brings in a sobering perspective.

*Elham Manea,
Professor of Political Science,
Zurich University, Switzerland*



INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

Experts on population and economy termed extensive investment in education a key to sustainable economic development in Pakistan as they spoke at an event organised to launch the book titled 'Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries - Assembling the Jigsaw.'

The Population Council, a premier science and public health international research organisation organised the book launch in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland. The government officials, representatives from the provinces, donor organizations, academics, NGOs, and civil society and diplomats attended the event.

The speakers discussed at length the changing demographics of Muslim world particularly Pakistan and gave recommendations on how to deal with the current challenges. They highlighted the need to address gender disparity in polices and their implementation and discussed challenges that are hindering Muslim countries in utilizing population dividend.

They said that majority of the Muslim countries are in the early stages of population dividend and their economic future depends on the way they utilise this opportunity. They also deliberated in detail about the negative fallouts of population dividend if the labour market fails to match the changing population dynamics.

The book was presented by its editor Dr. Hans Groth, Chairperson Board of the World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA Forum) at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). He is an elected member of the "Global Agenda Council on Global Population Growth" for the World Economic Forum (WEF) and a member of the Board of Directors of RehaClinic Bad Zurzach AG - a leading chain of Swiss rehabilitation hospitals.

Switzerland's Ambassador to Pakistan Christoph Bubb welcomed the guests to the event and appreciated the importance of such collaboration between Pakistan and Switzerland and underscored the importance of population issues for future sustainable development and elimination of poverty.

Country Director of the Population Council, Dr. Zeba Sathar, outlined the objectives of the book launch, the issues it raises and their pertinence in an ever-changing world, particularly affecting Pakistan.

Dr. Hans Groth, spoke on global and regional demographic change and how population dynamics affects both the developed and the developing world. He informed the participants that the book comes as the culmination of a journey, which started three years ago by gathering 21 social scientists from all over the world.

Member Parliament Nafisa Shah said that Muslim world represents one fourth of the population on planet. She said that despite one religion, Islamic countries greatly differ in their cultural and political narratives and their ways to deal with economic and political challenges also vary.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Sectors Shahnaz Wazir Ali emphasized the two most important issues facing Pakistan-enforcing compulsory primary education and also ensuring a speedy fertility decline. She said that the book brought to the fore the confluence of the major factors that would affect Pakistan's politics, stability, prosperity and future.

The book launch included a lively panel discussion on "Demographic Issues in Muslim Countries, focusing on Pakistan". The panelists included Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Dean, Principal and Professor, NUST Business School, Dr. Aliya H. Khan, Chairperson, Department of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University and Dr. G M Arif, Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE, Islamabad).

The speakers said majority of the Muslim countries faced similar problems, especially those related to gender issues. The book also focuses on the aging population in Muslim countries and the efforts needed to change shapes of families. However it also highlights success examples where Muslim majority countries have made significant improvement in women empowerment, including Turkey, Maldives and Iran.

Dr Hans Groth, the book's editor and chairman, Board of the World Demographic and Ageing Forum, Switzerland, lauded the progress made by Iran in bridging the gender gap.

He said in 1950, the fertility rate in Iran was 4.5 per cent, but by 2010, it dropped down to 1.5 per cent. "This is something France achieved in almost 200 years," Dr Groth claimed.

He said the challenge facing Iran now was to prepare for the aging population. The book highlights one main reason behind Iran's low fertility achievement – female education. There were more girls compared to boys in universities in Iran. The book points out the low population of working women in Muslim countries, including Pakistan, compared to the rest of the world.

It discusses demographic changes in Muslim countries, with focus on labour market challenges, health care, universal education and gender issues.

Speaking on the occasion, PPP MNA Dr Nafisa Shah said dynamics in Muslims countries were not the same. Historic, social and cultural factors played a major role in society rather than Islam.

"Many countries do not allow women to drive – considering it un-Islamic – but majority of Muslim nations do practice this taboo," she said, adding that "however we see that democracies are totally compatible with Islam." Other speakers noted that Pakistan was facing rapid urbanisation and under the demographic transaction enhanced role of women was needed.

Dean, Nust Business School, Dr Ashfaq Hassan said: "We are not doing anything to educate our people, and that is because political governments are more inclined towards soft and short-term projects." Results of providing education comes in eight to 12 years and that too are not visible, he added.

"We all talk of progress made by South East Asia but we all ignore the basic facts, i.e. difference of literacy rate," he said, adding that even in 1966 Korea, Malaysia and Thailand had 50-60 per cent literacy, while South Asia, 15-20 per cent. "Now they are above 90 per cent and spend around \$150 per capital on education compared to \$12 to \$19 by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh." He said Pakistan like most Muslim countries did not want to invest in human resource.

The Nation

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan adds one New Zealand to its population every year and one Switzerland after every two years and this rate of population increase continuous, over 235 million population will be in working age by 2050.

To educate and provide jobs to this young group would be a great challenge for the government. This was discussed at length with reference to Pakistan and the Muslim world's changing demographics at a book launching ceremony. The book was entitled "Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries - Assembling the Jigsaw."

Dr Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Dean of NUST Business School, giving presentation on 'Demographic Issues in Muslim Countries: Focusing on Pakistan' maintained that promotion of education in general and higher education in particular is Pakistan's compulsion. He said Pakistan is a young country with a median age of around 20 years where 104 million (60 per cent) of population is below the age of 30 years.

He said Pakistan's population is projected to be increased 351 million by 2050 and working age population is continued to increase and by 2050 over 235 million population will be in working age group. But the government does not have assets to feed and educate the people and to give education and jobs to working age group would be a great challenge for the government.

He said investment on education is a long-term proposition and in Pakistan investment in education takes 8 years to show its impact so the politicians avoid to invest on education rather invest on those sector that can show results during their five-year term.

In 1960s South Asian Countries including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh was spending one dollar on a person in terms of education while countries like Korea and Japan were spending \$20 per person. And now India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been spending \$20 per person while Korea and Japan have been spending 100 dollar per person in terms of education. He informed Pakistan's population at the time of independence was 32.5 million that has been increased to 175 million till 2010.

And fertility rate has declined from 6 percent in 1981 to 4 percent in 2010 and, though, the fertility rate is declining but not as rapidly as in Iran. The book was presented by its editor Dr. Hans Groth who is a Chairman of the Board of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum (WDA Forum) at the University of St Gallen (Switzerland), an elected member of the "Global Agenda Council on Global Population Growth" for the World Economic Forum (WEF) and a member of the Board of Directors of RehaClinic Bad Zurzach AG - a leading chain of Swiss rehabilitation hospitals.

Dr Hans Groth, spoke on global and regional demographic change and how population dynamics affects both the developed and the developing world. It aims to understand the dynamics of change, how the Muslim world will react in both social and economic spheres, especially in light of the Arab Spring, which itself was set in motion due to an individual's quest for employment. Basically this book is about "assembling a Jigsaw - which is always a complex task Dr. Groth said. One part of this jigsaw is Pakistan, with an ever-increasing youthful population, Pakistan and other countries will go through the same challenges, only the timing will be different. It is critical for policy makers to understand and utilize the opportunities available in the demographic dividend-the parts of the jigsaw in the book were important policy tools.

The launch was organized by the Population Council in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan. Presiding over the function were major policy makers including Muhammad Javed Malik, Secretary, Planning & Development Division, and Planning Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA and Chairman of the Human Development Commission and Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Advisor on the Social Sectors was the Special Guest on this occasion. Dr. Aliya H. Khan, Chairperson, Department of Economics, Quaid-e-Azam University, and Dr. G.M. Arif, Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) also spoke on the event.

Switzerland's Ambassador to Pakistan Christoph Bubb appreciated the importance of such collaboration between Pakistan and Switzerland and underscored the importance of population issues for future sustainable development and elimination of poverty.

Dr Zeba Sathar, Country Director of the Population Council outlined the objectives of the book launch, the issues it raises and their pertinence in an ever-changing world, particularly affecting Pakistan.

Islamabad—A book on Pakistan and the Muslim world's changing demographics was launched here on Wednesday unveiling the fact that how population dynamics affects both the developed and the developing world.

The book "Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries - Assembling the Jigsaw" was presented by its editor Dr. Hans Groth, Chairman of the Board of the World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA Forum) at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).

The book launch ceremony, organized by the Population Council, in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan, was chaired by Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Advisor on the Social Sector. Speaking on the occasion Shahnaz Wazir Ali emphasized the two most important issues faced by Pakistan including enforcing compulsory primary education and ensuring a speedy fertility decline.

She said the book brought to the fore the confluence of the major factors that would affect Pakistan's politics, stability, prosperity and future.

Switzerland's ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Christoph Bubb appreciated the importance of such collaboration between Pakistan and Switzerland and underscored the importance of population issues for future sustainable development and elimination of poverty.

Dr. Zeba Sathar Country Director of the Population Council outlined the objectives of the book launch, the issues it raises and their pertinence in an ever-changing world, particularly affecting Pakistan. Dr. Hans Groth, speaking on the occasion said the book aimed to understand the dynamics of change, how the Muslim world will react in both social and economic spheres, especially in light of the Arab Spring, which itself was set in motion due to an individual's quest for employment. Basically this book is about "assembling a Jigsaw - which is always a complex task Dr. Groth remarked adding that one part of this jigsaw is Pakistan, with an ever-increasing youthful population.

It is critical for policymakers to understand and utilize the opportunities available in the demographic dividend-the parts of the jigsaw in the book were important policy tools, he said.

Secretary Planning Secretary, Planning and Development Division, Planning Commission of Pakistan Muhammad Javed Malik in his remarks underscored the importance of population in development issues.

Member National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah stated that the book had important lessons that showed the effectiveness of policies in the Islamic world had led to positive and dramatically improved outcomes-something Pakistan can learn from. The event attracted a host of noted individuals from the government sector, diplomats, donor organizations, academicians, representatives of Non-Government Organizations, civil society and media persons.



Khaleej Times

FROM THE world's sixth most populous nation, Pakistan is poised to soon become the fifth. This has far-reaching economic and political consequences. Yet this pivotal issue rarely figures in the government's policy priorities, or for that matter in political or media debate in the country.

Unless this issue is seriously addressed, the intersection between demographic change, economic stagnation and persisting education and gender gaps will confront Pakistan with the specter of chronic instability even social breakdown in the decades ahead. The country has failed to even hold a census since 1998. The UN's 2010 projections however show that Pakistan's population will be over 205 million in 2020 and rise to 240 million in 2030.

Not only is Pakistan's population still growing faster than other developing nations, its demographic profile is also changing. The working age population is expected to double in the next twenty years. To absorb the youth bulge, an estimated 36 million jobs will need to be created in the next ten years alone.

This is a huge challenge. It can hardly be met when 25 million children of school-going age do not have access to education. This means millions of young people — in a population in which 66 per cent are below the age of 30 — will be entering the labour market with an inherent disadvantage. This presents a grim outlook for the future.

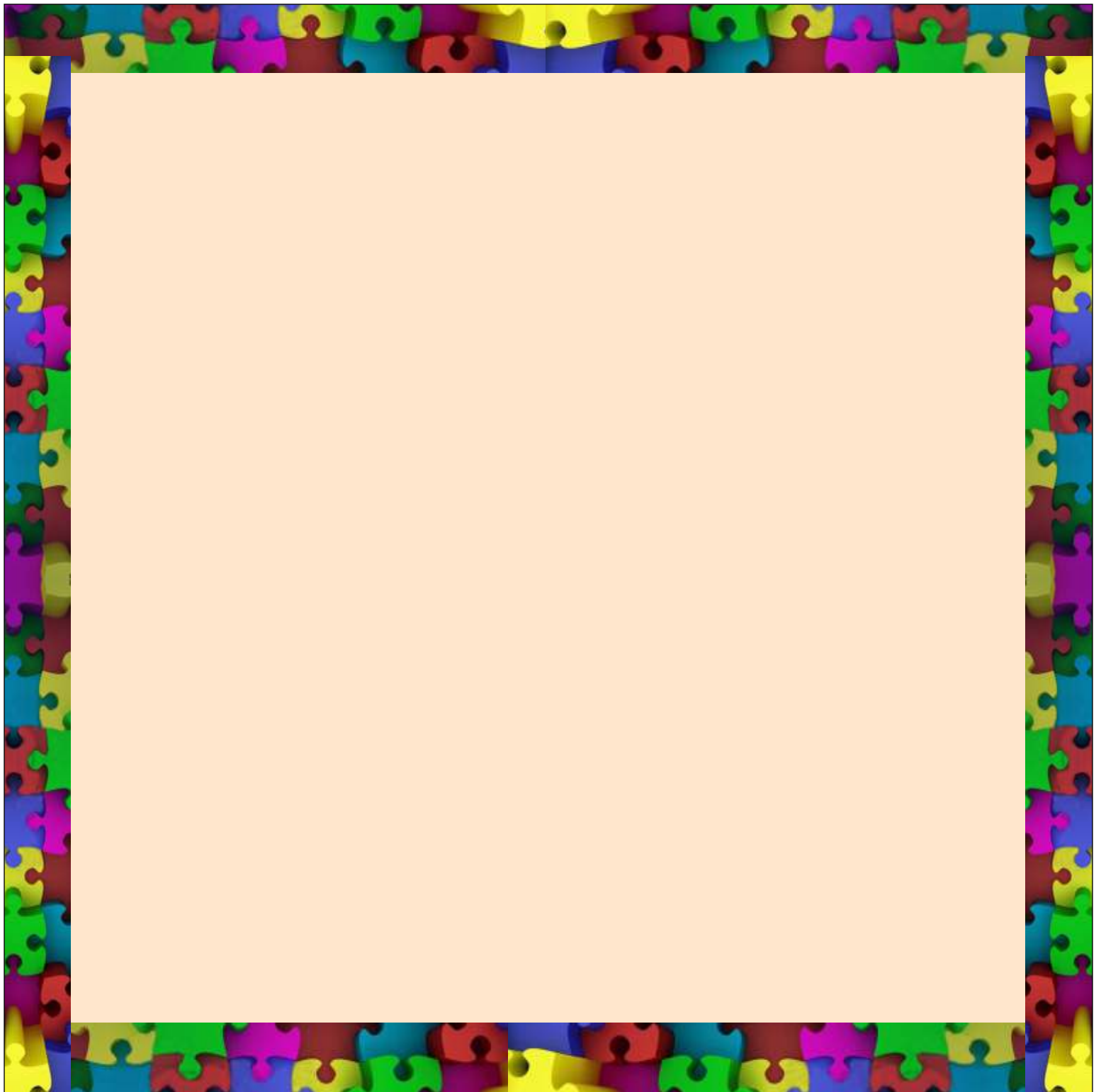
It doesn't have to be this way. Give these young people an education and find them jobs and the demographic dynamics can set Pakistan on a path of economic progress. This is the main message of a new book — Population Dynamics in Muslim Countries. This brings together distinguished academics to assess unfolding demographics in the Islamic world, drawing on diverse experiences of Muslim nations and offering instructive comparisons. The book shows that fertility decline can be quite rapid in Muslim countries with the pace determined by socio-economic development and official family planning policies. Muslim countries are in varying stages of demographic transition, when birth and death rates are falling and the bulk of the population moving from being economically dependent to becoming potential earners. But there is nothing inevitable that this will produce a demographic dividend.

The chapter that examines the connection between demographic factors and political change in the Middle East offers important insights. It identifies several structural similarities that underpinned the Arab Spring and which will continue to shape its future course. He lists them as: "demographic dynamics, a challenging situation in the labour markets, social structures that particularly affect women, and the uncertain position of religious leaders". All these will matter to the final outcome.

In the next 20 years Pakistan will experience its largest working-age population bulge. As the present under-25s join the workforce in unparalleled numbers this will present an imposing challenge. The gap between the working-age population and availability of jobs must be closed if this challenge is not to overwhelm the country. Millions of jobs therefore have to be created by sustained economic growth if Pakistan's demographic transition is to turn into a bonus. The scale and quality of education has to substantially expand including girls' education to promote greater participation by women in the work force. Sathar's chapter rightly underscores the role of women as a decisive variable for reaping a demographic dividend.

But if Pakistan fails to improve its governance and misses the opportunity offered by changing demography a bleak future awaits the country.

Dr Maleeha Lodhi served as Pakistan's ambassador to the US and United Kingdom





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