



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Pakistan Population (1950 - 2023)

— Pakistan Population

2023

■ Pakistan Population: 240,485,658

200,000,000

150,000,000

100,000,000

50,000,000

Mitigating Pakistan's Population Challenges

Analysis Report



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INTRODUCTION

Water, Education, Economy and Population (WEEP) are critical issues that have far-reaching effects on any country. Each element of WEEP has an over-arching impact on every stratum of society which in turn influences the security of a state. These elements determine the quality of life of the nation, that's why all of their parameters must be monitored continuously by concerned stakeholders. Inadequacies in any of these can be detrimental to the National Security of a state. Unfortunately, Pakistan is confronted with acute challenges in each domain of WEEP. While the National Security Policy 2022, considered to be 'citizen centric', has laid enough emphasis on human security, the implementation of policies already formulated for Water, Education, Economy and Population remain wanting just like the policy-to-implementation gaps observed in other governmental responsibilities.

Given the interconnected nature of these issues, the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, plans to hold brainstorming sessions and seminars on each subject of WEEP and further examine their nuances. In this context CASS organised the first seminar in this series in October 2023, titled '**Mitigating Pakistan's Population Challenges**'.

The best growth potential exhibited by Pakistan since its independence is in population. From 32 million at independence (in 1947), Pakistan's population stands at 250 million in 2023. This represents almost eight times growth over a period of 76 years. It is estimated that Pakistan would hit the 400 million population mark by 2050 with the current fertility rate; it could be 266 million with a strict family planning program; but, would still be 342 million with moderate planning.

High population growth, rapid urbanisation and inaccurate census leave little margin for planning by the stakeholders, but it is unfortunate that the same stakeholders are responsible for poor policies and their implementation. A country that was about to become self-sufficient in food in the early 1980s, has a food insecurity issue today due to increased population. A crucial aspect deserving attention is the significant contributions made by women to Pakistani society. While they possess a genuine aspiration to be a potent workforce, women confront societal challenges not just globally, but especially in Pakistan.

To speak on this important but mostly neglected issue, CASS invited Senator Dr Sania Nishtar and Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan to share their expert views. Dr Nishtar deliberated upon, '**The Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Impacts**,' while Ms Khan focused on '**Gender and Population Dynamics**.'

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While moderating the session, **Air Vice Marshal Nasser Ul Haq Wyne (Retd)** underscored the significance of WEEP as foundational elements influencing a nation's overall well-being and security. He emphasised the need for vigilant monitoring and intervention in these areas to bolster state security. In Pakistan, the disparity between policies and their execution poses challenges. Factors such as high population growth, rapid urbanisation, and inaccurate census data hinder effective planning, with repercussions on food security. Air Vice Marshal Wyne also highlighted the substantial contributions women make to society, even as they navigate both global and local societal challenges.

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar presented the pressing issue of Pakistan's population challenges, emphasising their impact on development, economic growth, and national security. She discussed the current state of population growth and fertility rate concerns; and expressed deep concern about the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which has remained stagnant since 2005. She highlighted factors influencing fertility rates and the role of family planning services, highlighting their critical contribution in addressing population challenges. Providing a historical context, Senator Nishtar identified governance issues and the impact of devolution as contributors to the decline of family planning initiatives. She also underscored the nexus between population growth and water scarcity, pointing to potential security concerns. The senator pointed to systemic issues in governance, including corruption, an elite-centric system, and weakened government delivery and its human cost. Sharing successful transparency initiatives, such as digital dashboards and e-governance during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Senator Nishtar highlighted the importance of rule-based and transparent processes. In conclusion, she urged urgent governance reforms, ethical conduct of public servants, and transparency to ensure a brighter future for Pakistan.

Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan provided a comprehensive overview of gender dynamics in Pakistan, focusing on health, education, political empowerment, and economic participation. The gender imbalance, with 49.5% women and 50.5% men, was attributed to deep-rooted social factors, resulting in 'missing women' due to gender-biased preferences. According to data she shared, despite a significant youth population, almost 40% were living below the poverty line, indicating economic vulnerability. Ms Khan pointed out that health indicators in the country were alarming, with Pakistan ranking third globally in maternal and infant mortality. There was a stark gender gap in education; with 12 million out-of-school girls and 21.8 million youth neither in education nor employed. She discussed that political representation remained imbalanced and required more inclusive measures. Economic gender disparities widely persisted reflected in low female labour force participation and their limited financial contribution. Ms Khan advocated for urgent and comprehensive reforms for improvement in literacy. She also underscored the importance of accountability, transparency, and changing societal attitudes for transformative change, laying emphasis on the need for gendered public safety measures and unwavering support of women's achievements.

In his Voted of Thanks, **Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd)** expressed gratitude to the speakers for an insightful discussion on a subject of great importance. He underscored the global recognition of the fact that the social issues were now at the core of national security of any state. Highlighting Pakistan's National Security Policy 2022-2026 as citizen-centric; he noted its potential impact on the social sector would only be possible when it was effectively implemented. Giving Francis Fukuyama's 'getting to Denmark' analogy, he urged prerequisites like the rule of law and strong institutions to achieve progress. He acknowledged the challenges presented by the speakers but found hope in their actionable recommendations. Addressing the reluctance to correct behaviours, he urged critical thinking and intervention, especially among younger generations.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Water, Education, Economy, and Population (WEEP) are fundamental pillars with interconnected impacts on national well-being and security. Continuous oversight and positive improvement in these aspects is imperative for ensuring a state's security, and any inadequacies are likely to lead to acute challenges, especially for a developing country like Pakistan.
- Implementation of policies regarding WEEP are lagging like the policy-to-implementation gaps in other governmental responsibilities and services.
- Pakistan's population has grown nearly eight times in 76 years, from 32 million at the time of independence to 250 million in the present year. Projections suggest it may reach 400 million by 2050 with the current fertility rate.
- High population growth, rapid urbanisation, and inaccurate census data leave minimal room for effective planning by stakeholders.
- Pakistan has an annual population growth rate of 2.55%, higher than many South Asian countries.
- Family planning services are important and their accessibility can contribute up to 30% in mitigating population growth. Unfortunately, Pakistan has one of the lowest Contraceptive Prevalence Rates (CPR), in Asian countries.
- There is an unmet need for family planning, especially among the poor segments of the population.
- Over-population is a core concern for Pakistan's national security as there is a growing global recognition that social issues are integral to national security.
- Pakistan's National Security Policy 2022-2026 is citizen-centric, but the directions in the document need to be translated into effective strategies for social sector improvement.
- Pakistan used to have progressive policies for family planning with dedicated budgets and infrastructure. However, these fell victim to devolution and governance issues.
- Corruption and collusion have become a norm in Pakistani institutions, affecting evidence-based decision-making. It has impacted education, healthcare, livelihoods, security and the environment leading to economic growth challenges and societal harm.
- Selective accountability and a culture of arbitrariness, undermine government promises.
- Gender dynamics play a pivotal role in health, education, political empowerment, and economic participation.
- The gender imbalance in Pakistan's population stems from deep-seated social and cultural factors.
- Pakistan ranked third globally in maternal and infant mortality rates in 2020, with significant implications for the health and survival of women and children.
- There are pronounced gender disparities in education; alarmingly 12 million, out of 20 million out-of-school children, are girls.
- Gender disparities in politics are also evident, with low representation of women in Parliament and ministerial positions, despite the implementation of a quota system.
- There are also gender-based disparities in terms of work force participation where women face various social and cultural barriers.
- The financial inclusion and ownership of businesses among women is notably low, positioning Pakistan as the fourth least financially inclusive country.
- To achieve a level of development comparable to Denmark - a country known for its strong rule of law, robust institutions, and high accountability - Pakistan must focus on strengthening these same areas.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- It is imperative to convert policies aimed at managing overpopulation into concrete, actionable plans. This requires the formulation of targeted initiatives that can effectively address the challenges and complexities associated with population growth.
- To align with the practices of developed nations, Pakistan should significantly increase investment in education and Research & Development (R&D). This approach has been a common factor in the success of developed countries and can play a crucial role in effective population control through enhanced educational opportunities and scientific advancements.
- Pakistan must leverage digital innovations to enhance transparency, utilising real-time dashboards for public monitoring, embracing data analytics for informed decision-making, and implementing e-governance to streamline services and governance processes.
- The country should ensure public and researcher access to socioeconomic and sectoral data, promoting an open data culture that fosters rigorous research and policy analyses. Prioritising data-driven decision-making and the democratisation of data is essential for informed governance and civic engagement.
- Prioritising ethical behaviour, transparency, and accountability within the public sector is crucial. This will involve the establishment of stringent ethical guidelines, clear transparency measures, and robust accountability mechanisms to ensure that public servants act in the best interest of the nation.
- Implementing a systematic framework for enhanced governance is essential. This should include the adoption of digital tax filing systems to streamline revenue collection, enacting freedom of information legislation to bolster citizen engagement and oversight, and providing robust legal protection for whistle-blowers to safeguard the integrity of the public sector.
- The empowerment of honest and committed civil servants is vital and should be achieved through a meritocratic system for appointments and promotions. This system should recognise and reward dedicated public officials, thereby promoting a culture of excellence and dedication within the bureaucracy.
- A multi-faceted strategy should be adopted to tackle gender equality issues. This strategy should encompass educational reforms aimed at gender sensitivity and inclusiveness, alongside targeted measures to bridge economic gaps between genders. Such reforms should prioritise curricula that challenge traditional gender roles and provide equal opportunities for financial literacy and entrepreneurship among women.
- To cultivate a culture of inclusivity, it is imperative to reshape the perceptions of young men towards gender roles. Educational initiatives and public campaigns should be designed to encourage young men to embrace and support the equal participation of all genders in every professional and social sphere. This would involve targeted programmes in schools and communities that promote respect for diversity and gender collaboration.
- A critical re-examination of societal and religious frameworks is essential in advancing gender equality. This should involve dialogues and educational programmes that encourage critical thinking and challenge entrenched biases. Engaging religious and community leaders in this discourse can be particularly effective in transforming deeply held beliefs and practices that inhibit gender equality.
- To pave the way for sustainable progress, Pakistan must prioritise fortifying its institutional framework, rigorously implementing the rule of law, and cultivating a culture of transparency and accountability. These efforts are critical in creating a stable environment that can support and encourage development.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Remarks

Air Vice Marshal Nasser UI Haq Wyne, SI(M) (Retd)

Air Vice Marshal Nasser UI Haq Wyne (Retd) inaugurated the session and identified WEEP as the fundamental pillars, which exert profound interconnected impacts on the well-being and security of a nation. He asserted that it was imperative to continuously monitor and address these domains in order to ensure robustness of a state's security as inadequacies therein posed acute challenges to Pakistan. The policies crafted for Water, Education, Economy and Population remained wanting on account of policy-to-implementation gaps as observed in other governmental responsibilities. He added that women's contributions to Pakistani society were significant and warrant appropriate recognition and support. He said women possessed a strong desire to be a formidable workforce; however, they encountered societal challenges universally and especially within Pakistan.

Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Impacts

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar

Significance of the Issue

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar commenced her talk by expressing her personal connection to the Air Force, given her 12 years of educational life spent in a PAF school in Peshawar. She then outlined the structure of her presentation that included an overview of the current state of population growth, associated concerns, compounding factors, and determinants at play. She acknowledged that the initial part of her presentation might paint a bleak picture but stressed the importance of focusing on potential solutions.

The Population Challenge

Senator Nishtar introduced the terms 'implosion' and 'explosion' to describe Pakistan's dire population situation. She concurred with the moderator's characterization and emphasised that unlike other South Asian countries, Pakistan's annual population growth rate stood at 2.55%, which was significantly higher. She expressed deep concern about the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 3.6 since 2005. This had set the stage for profound challenges in the years ahead.

Factors Influencing Fertility Rates

The senator explored a myriad of factors influencing fertility rates in Pakistan, including the role of female education levels, women's participation in the workforce, societal factors, healthcare challenges, infant mortality rates, early marriages, women's lack of control over fertility and misconceptions about contraception.

Role of Family Planning

Highlighting the importance of family planning services, Senator Nishtar informed that access to such services contributed only 30% which was not enough to mitigate the population challenge. An effective family planning programme, she argued, could dispel myths and misconceptions. Despite this, Pakistan's Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) stood at only 34%, significantly lower than Asian countries like Iran, which boasted a CPR of 77 despite religious conservatism. A significant concern highlighted by Senator Nishtar was the unmet need for family planning, especially among the poorest of the population. In these segments, the contraceptive prevalence rate was lower, and families tended to have more children. Drawing from her experience with the poverty alleviation programme 'Ehsas', she shared encounters with women from the lowest stratum of society, many of whom had six or more children, underscoring this concerning trend.

While talking about the historical context of family planning in Pakistan, she recalled the time when Pakistan had a progressive policy goal of universal health coverage for family planning and had dedicated budgets and infrastructure for NGOs to deliver services. She pinpointed two primary factors contributing to the downturn in family planning efforts in Pakistan. The first was governance issues that undermined the effectiveness of various institutions, including those related to health and family planning. Deteriorating governance directly impeded their operational capabilities. The second factor was the implementation of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and the subsequent devolution, which she argued should have been preceded by a clear delineation of responsibilities between the federal and provincial governments. The lack of defined mandates prior to this devolution resulted in significant challenges and adversely affected social welfare programmes, rendering the family welfare programme inactive despite having established infrastructure and systems.

Population Growth & Water Scarcity Nexus

Senator Nishtar showed several slides that illustrated the correlation between Pakistan's burgeoning population and escalating water scarcity. She highlighted that Pakistan is currently grappling with a per capita water shortage, a serious issue that bears implications for national security. This scarcity, when viewed in conjunction with the country's rapid population increase, has the potential to exacerbate economic insecurity, poverty, and deprivation, further heightening the risks of conflict, violence, and political turmoil.

Systemic Issues in Governance

The senator then discussed several issues plaguing Pakistan's governance and public institutions, drawing four key inferences from her experience:

1. **Corruption and Collusion:** Dr Nishtar asserted that corruption and collusion had become the norm in most institutions of Pakistan. Political interference and expediency often

negatively influence evidence-based decision-making, leading to a culture where privileges and money laundering were integrated into the legal framework.

2. **Elite-Centric System:** She emphasised that Pakistan's system was inherently elite-centric, with privileges enshrined in the legal system. Access to land, tax exemptions, price subsidies, and favoured access to capital created disparities and were retarding equitable growth.
3. **Promises vs. Delivery:** Senator Nishtar argued that the government's ability to deliver on its promises had been severely undermined by these systemic issues. Despite budget allocations, weak governance, eroded institutional processes, and regulatory loopholes had resulted in poor outcomes.
4. **Weak Accountability & Culture of Arbitrariness:** She pointed out that accountability for rule-based and evidence-based decision-making was nearly absent. A culture of arbitrariness, unchecked discretions, and rewards for bureaucracy with political leanings were prevalent.

Proposed Solutions & Initiatives

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar stressed the need to address foundational issues within the system before tackling sector-specific problems. Her proposed solutions included:

1. **Promoting Ethical Conduct:** She advocated for promoting ethical conduct in the public sector, emphasising rule-based control of state and government functioning, respect for merit, and integrity. Oversight of discretionary powers and avoiding conflict of interest ought to be integral parts of governance.
2. **From Political Slogans to Diligence:** Senator Nishtar highlighted the necessity of a departure from political sloganeering towards diligence, hard work and sincerity towards public service.
3. **Systematic Agenda for Transparency:** She suggested implementing a systematic agenda for transparency, including electronic filing, freedom of information and protection for whistle-blowers. Strengthening supreme audit institutions, public finance management, and procurement reforms were also essential to address several invisible issues within the system.
4. **Empowering Bureaucrats:** Senator Nishtar underscored the importance of empowering honest and dedicated bureaucrats and civil servants. Merit-based appointments and promotions ought to be favoured over political affiliations.

Tools for Transparency & Integrity

Senator Nishtar shared various tools and digital solutions to promote a culture of integrity and transparency within government programmes. These tools included:

- Development of a delivery unit with clear metrics and responsibilities to ensure the timely achievement of goals.
- A governance observatory dashboard to monitor and track governance-related activities and policies across implementing agencies.
- Implementation of a governance and integrity policy that agencies have to comply with when implementing programmes.

She further highlighted concrete examples of how e-transparency initiatives could be implemented:

- **Digital Dashboard for Transparency:** Digital dashboards to enhance transparency in all government programmes, providing real-time information on fund disbursement. These dashboards allow the public to track allocation of funds and reduce opacity while enhancing accountability.
- **Data-Driven Decision-making:** Senator Nishtar urged the importance of data-driven decision-making by using Business Intelligence (BI) tools. These tools help monitor and respond to cyber-attacks and scams, ensuring the security of government programmes.
- **Data Democratisation:** The senator stressed the need to make data available to the public and researchers. Access to anonymised data from government surveys and programmes ought to be opened up, promoting data democratisation and enabling research and analyses and enhancing public trust.

Conclusion

While concluding her thoughts, she highlighted the urgency of tackling these challenges by implementing governance reforms and fostering a culture of transparency and integrity. Senator Nishtar expressed her belief in the potential for positive change in Pakistan and underscored the importance of addressing foundational issues to ensure a brighter future for the country.

Gender and Population Dynamics

Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan

Gender Dynamics in Pakistan

Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan initiated her discussion with an overview of the country's current situation; focusing on four critical areas where gender played a pivotal role: health and survival;

education; political empowerment; and economic participation and opportunity. These four areas were derived from sub-indices in the *'Global Gender Gap Report.'*

The gender imbalance in Pakistan's population, with 49.5% women and 50.5% men, was attributed to deep-seated social and cultural factors. Ms Khan shared Amartya Sen's analysis from the 1980s underscored the prevalence of customs and traditions in South Asia, leading to a significant number of 'missing women' due to gender-biased preferences for male children, resulting in instances of female infanticide and selective abortions. Addressing the population, Ms Khan highlighted that approximately 59% of the total population fell within the age group of 5 to 34 years. However, nearly 40% of the population lived below the poverty line, indicating a precarious economic situation.

Health, Survival & Educational Disparities

Health and survival indicators in Pakistan were alarming, with the country ranking third globally in maternal and infant mortality rates in 2020. A striking 189 women, per 100,000 live births, succumbed to pregnancy-related causes. Additionally, malnutrition was a pervasive issue, affecting 40% of children under five. Ms Khan stressed that malnutrition had profound consequences on cognitive development, hindering mental and economic productivity by depriving individuals of essential micronutrients and vitamins at critical stages of growth. Transitioning to educational attainment, Ms Khan highlighted disparities in the country, particularly for girls. Out of 20 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, 12 million were girls, resulting in a 37% gender gap in educational attainment. Additionally, 21.8 million youth aged 15-29 were neither in education nor employed.

Political Empowerment, Economic Participation & Opportunity

According to the speaker, Pakistan's political landscape also exhibited gender disparities, with only 20.5% of seats in the parliament held by women in 2022 and women occupying just 11% of ministerial positions. Despite the implementation of a quota system for the past three elections, women's representation remained low, highlighting the need for a more engaged and inclusive approach. Economic gender disparities were evident in Pakistan's labour force, with the female labour force participation rate at 24.6% compared to 80.9% for males. Ms Khan was of the view that women's limited career aspirations within the labour force stemmed from various constraints, including the urban-rural divide and low wages. From the labour force to financial inclusion, she pointed out that only 14% of women had businesses in the country, ranking fourth from the bottom in female financial inclusion among 135 surveyed countries. Property ownership, crucial for women's economic empowerment, showed a persisting gender gap, with only 3.3% of women owning a home either jointly or individually.

Recommendations

At the end, Ms Khan presented a comprehensive way forward:

- Reform the education system to address gender disparities, acknowledging that illiteracy, which costs Pakistan USD 5.86 billion annually, is a barrier to progress.
- Instil a culture of accountability, transparency, and anti-corruption to ensure the effective implementation of gender equality policies.
- Foster a shift in young male attitudes to cultivate inclusivity and support equal participation across all sectors.
- Re-evaluate and challenge social and religious norms that hinder gender equality, empowering individuals to actively address and overcome biases.
- Enhance public safety measures for women, including law enforcement and secure transportation, to facilitate their economic engagement.
- Promote male allyship, ensuring that women receive full support from their male counterparts and celebrate their successes.

Conclusion

In her conclusion, Ms Khand called for sweeping changes in the foundational aspects of education and societal attitudes, a reinforcement of governance structures, and an improvement in the safety and acknowledgment of women in the labour market. By addressing these essential areas, she posited that Pakistan could quicken its stride not only towards gender equality but also towards enhanced socioeconomic growth.

Concluding Remarks

Air Marshal Farooq Habib, HI(M) (Retd)

Air Marshal Farooq Habib expressed his gratitude towards the speakers for their articulate, thorough, and comprehensive presentations. He reaffirmed the validity of their recommendations on population control, acknowledging their potential impact on this critical issue. He observed that there was an increasing global awareness that social issues were central to national security, not merely peripheral concerns. He reminisced about Pakistan's National Security Policy 2022-2026, noting its emphasis on being citizen-centric. Despite the lack of concrete strategies derived from the policy's directives, he maintained that it still offered a highly relevant and potent framework. He advocated that, if executed effectively, this policy could significantly enhance the nation's social infrastructure.

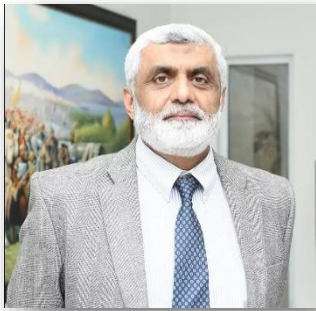
Highlighting the solutions proposed by the speakers to mitigate overpopulation, he referred to Francis Fukuyama's 2010 book, *'The Origins of Political Order,'* where Fukuyama introduced the concept of 'getting to Denmark.' He elaborated that 'Denmark' serves as a metaphor for an ideal state characterised by progress, peace, prosperity, and effective governance. He asserted that Pakistan, along with any other developing nation, could not hope to achieve this 'Danish' standard without fulfilling certain prerequisites such as establishing the rule of law, strong institutions, and accountability. He underscored that for Pakistan, the journey to 'getting to Denmark' was

infeasible without first addressing the deficiencies in its social sector, with the resolution of overpopulation being the foremost step in this critical journey.

Air Marshal Habib acknowledged that the issues outlined in the panellists' presentations might initially evoke feelings of hopelessness and despondency due to the overwhelming nature of the challenges described. Yet, he recognised that the speakers had also offered practical and frank recommendations to surmount these difficulties. He affirmed that these recommendations were within the realm of Pakistan's current capacity and capability, provided there was a committed translation of policies and strategies into concrete actions.

ANNEXURE

Profile of Speakers



Session Chair

Air Marshal Farooq Habib, HI(M) (Retd)

Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd) joined the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad as Senior Director in February 2022. A graduate of National Defence University and Air War College, he has 36 years' experience of military aviation as fighter pilot in the Pakistan Air Force. He holds Master's Degrees in Strategic Studies and Defence & Strategic Studies. During his service with the PAF, he has held various Command and Staff appointments including Commandant of Air War College, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Training, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Personnel and Vice Chief of Air Staff. He lectures

regularly at National Defence University and Air War College on related subjects. He is a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) for his services to the PAF.

Speakers

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar

Senator Dr Sania Nishtar is member of the Senate of Pakistan and is well known for her contributions to the social welfare sector. From November 2018 to May 2022, she served as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Federal Minister, where she held the Cabinet portfolio of Poverty Alleviation. In that role, she founded the Ehsaas program, the largest social protection program in the country's history, which reached 15 million households and was widely acclaimed internationally. Dr Nishtar is the former Chair of several multilateral initiatives. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and did her Ph.D. from Kings College London. Her Alma mater, Kings College London, also honoured her with a Doctorate in Science, Honoris, Causa, in 2019. Dr Sania is the founder of the NGO Heartfile. In 2020, she was listed amongst BBC's 100 most influential women globally.



Ms Samia Liaquat Ali Khan, Director Impact, Tabadlab

Ms Samia Liaquat Ali is the Director, Impact at Tabadlab, an advisory services firm and think tank that offers thought leadership and knowledge products to policymakers. Ms Samia Liaquat Ali did her MSc in Development Studies from the University of London and a Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University, New York. Ms Samia has over 25 years of global experience in leading teams, designing and running programs to improve the lives of humans affected by poverty and conflict. As Senior Group Head at the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), she designed and led the USD 150 million National Poverty Graduation Program, Ehsaas

Amdan, with an aim to engage with nearly half a million households through asset transfers, interest-free loans, and skills training.

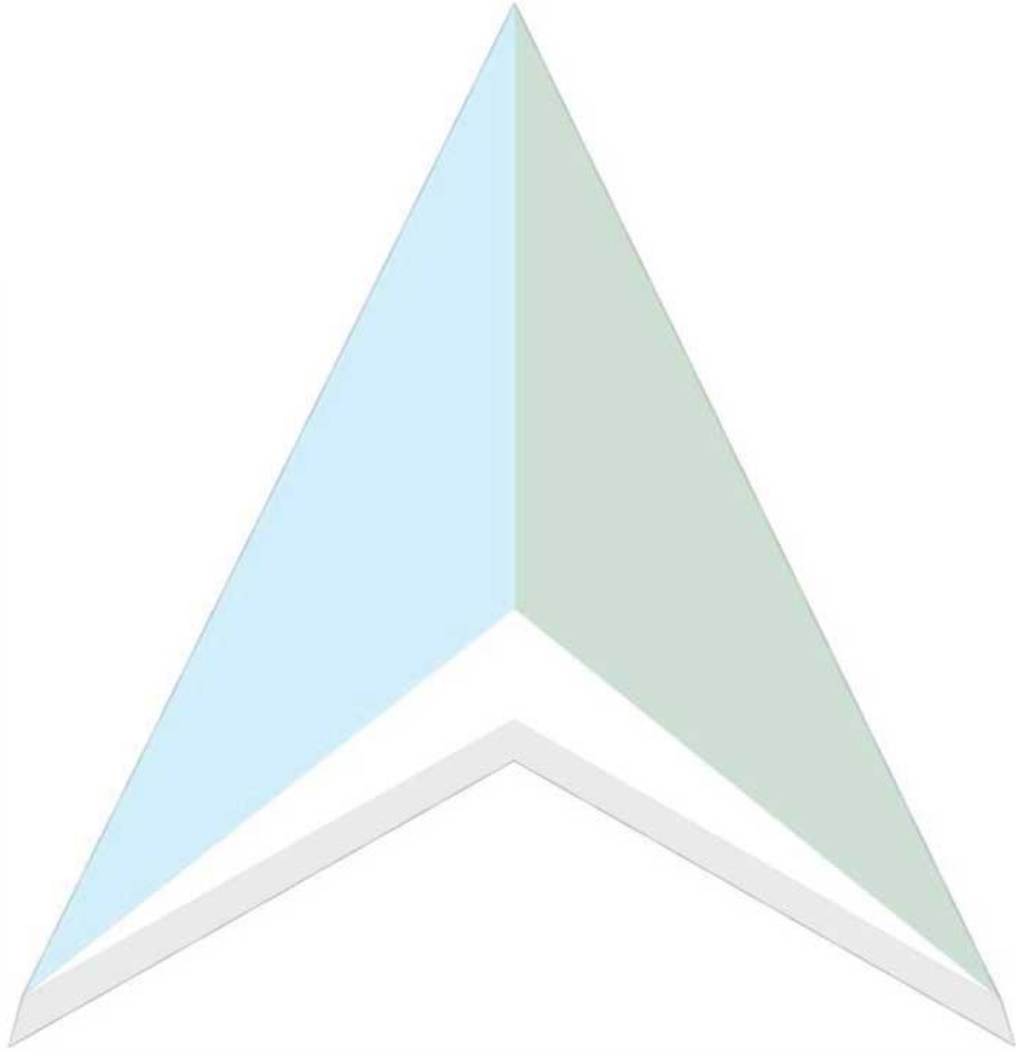


Moderator

Air Vice Marshal Nasser UI Haq Wyne, SI(M) (Retd)

Air Vice Marshal Nasser UI Haq Wyne (Retd) joined the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies, Islamabad as Director in May 2023. Air Vice Marshal Wyne served in the Pakistan Air Force from 1988 to 2021. During his career, he commanded a fighter squadron, Wing and a Base. He remained on the faculty of Flying Instructors' School (FIS), Combat Commanders' School (CCS) and PAF Air War College (AWC) and has also served as an instructor pilot with Sri Lankan Air Force. He did National Security and War Course (NSWC) from the National Defence University (NDU) and has also served as Air Attaché at the Pakistan embassy in Beijing, China. His staff appointments include Secretary to Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General Air force (IGAF)

and Director General Joint Cantt Gwadar. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) for his services to the PAF.



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