

POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)



**FORMAN
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Bi-Annual
January - June, 2021

3rd Edition

Highlights

- Population Studies Certification Plan
- Open House session for certification plan
- Proposal for Academic Conference
- Institutional Linkages
- Webinar

Department & Course	Semester
Sociology (SOCL110) - Introduction to Demography	Fall
Statistics (STAT103) - Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences	Fall
Economics (ECON210) - Population Economics	Spring
Geography (GEOG220) - Human Domains of Geography	Spring

Certification Program - Demography and Population Studies

The Population Research Center (PRC) has launched its certification program in “Demography and Population Studies”. This program has been launched for baccalaureate students with a special focus on freshmen and sophomores which will be effective from Fall’21. A total of four courses will be offered in one academic year (two in each semester).

There are four participating academic departments i.e. Economics, Geography, Sociology and Statistics in this program. This program will extend students’ knowledge and skills in demography and will focus on their professional development to make them suitable for the job market.

It will also train the undergraduate students in demographic theory, analysis and application of quantitative methods. While completing their BA/BS degree programs, students opting for the certification program will be able to claim the credit hours earned in fulfillment of their degree requirements. In, addition, students will be able to claim these credits for their major, minor or elective courses.

The certification program will be commercialized in Fall’22 where students from other universities will be able to avail this opportunity.

Did you know?

“It took hundreds of thousands of years for the world population to grow to 1 billion – then in just another 200 years or so, it grew sevenfold” - UNFPA

“An educated, enlightened population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a democracy”

- Nelson Mandela

Open House Session - Certification Program

“The Certification Program will help students to critically analyze existing policies and initiatives related to population management and control within the global and regional context, with a special focus on Pakistan”

“Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women.”
– Michelle Obama



PRC organized a virtual open house session for baccalaureate students to discuss the relevance of the certification program while responding to their questions/queries. The session was attended by Faculty, Staff and students.

The event started with a welcome note by Dr. Sikandar Hayat. (Dean, Social Sciences).

The certification program was presented by Dr. M. Vaqas Ali (Director, PRC) followed by the presentations of Mr. Jawad Tariq (Coordinator, PRC) and Ms. Fatima Shamsi (Administrative Assistant, PRC) as they presented the courses, timeline and the registration process of the program.

Further, each departmental repre-

sentative presented the relevance of the certification program with their subject.

First, Dr. Hafiz Rizwan Ahmad from the department of economics described the importance of demography and how it relates to multiple economic indicators (scarcity, employment and resource generation etc.) to students majoring in economics. He also added that Government policies depend upon the data of the population and the students can have a wide range of job opportunities as researchers, policymakers, data analysts and social scientists.

Second, Dr. Khadija Shakrullah from the department of geography explained the association of geography and demography and how these two fields define population dynamics. Dr. Shakrullah also mentioned that the course Human domains of Geography (GEOG220) will help students to understand the economic patterns, settlements, population distribution, political and natural factors.

Third, Mr. Athar Azeem from the department of Sociology explained that sociology and demography as a combination will enhance students' knowledge in terms of the human population, population growth, dynamics, management and control by specifically emphasizing fertility, mortality, migration. Also, it will give an ample understanding of theoretical and research-based knowledge.

Lastly, Ms. Samia Ayub from the department of statistics explained that



statistical demography refers to population composition and trends. Data analysis is important to explore demographic trends. Ms. Ayub also added that students will be able to use software for bulk data. The course on statistics will help students to analyze data handling in terms of coding and entering data to make meaningful conclusions.

Further, Dr. Jonathan Addleton (Rector, FCCU) shared his kind remarks regarding demography and related fields.

Dr. Addleton acknowledged the efforts of PRC and the collaborating departments for introducing this certification program.

The event ended with the question/answer session in which Dr. M. Vaqas Ali and departmental representatives responded to students.

Students were requested to contact the PRC team and departmental representatives for the registration process and any further queries/guidance.



“According to Population Census 2017, Pakistan is ranked fifth most populous country in the world with the total population of 208 million and population growth rate of 2.40 which is much higher than the average growth rate (1.0% – 1.5%) of other South Asian countries”

Child Marriage - Prohibited

“Child marriage in Pakistan is legally prohibited under the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 (No XIX). Under the Act, the minimum age for marriage was 18 years for a male and 16 years for a female”

Academic Conference - Opportunities and threats: Population growth and the way forward

Population Research Center will conduct its first virtual conference in December 2021. The central theme will be to discuss the association between population growth, socio-economic and political development.

The conference will be conducted in collaboration with the Population Council Pakistan (PC) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The conference will bring national and international scholars, researchers, and experts to a platform to discuss the various challenges that have arisen due

to the massive growth of population in the world and to look for pragmatic remedies that can address these threats.

The speakers will share theoretical and empirical papers on interrelation of the population growth and important demographic problems

The deadline to submit abstracts of the paper is 1st September 2021 and the deadline to submit full paper is 30th September 2021.

The sub-themes of the conference are:

- *Population explosion and other relevant issues*
- *Population Studies and gender vulnerable issues*
- *Urbanization & Migration*
- *Old age and Genealogy*
- *Poverty*
- *Public health policy and disease control*
- *Resource Scarcity*

The conference will welcome:

- ◇ Higher Educational Institutes across Punjab that encourages training and research in the field of population studies.
- ◇ Research Institutes (National & International)/Organizations
- ◇ Population Associations/Relevant Government Bodies
- ◇ Researchers, administrators or managers
- ◇ FCCU faculty, staff and students engaged in research.

Institutional Linkages

PRC has established international linkages through membership with the Population Association of America (PAA) and the European Association of population Studies (EAPS).

PRC is also having discussions with the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA and Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) for establishing linkages for future collaborations.

Webinar - Family Planning in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities

PRC organized a webinar on “Family Planning in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities” on 2nd July, 2021 in which Dr. Iqbal Shah was the guest speaker. Dr. Shah is a Visiting Scientist in the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

The event started with the welcome note of Dr. Jonathan Addleton (Rector, FCCU).

In his presentation, Dr. Shah discussed different demographic aspects of Pakistan like population, fertility rate and contraceptive prevalence. After that, he talked about the family planning and political leadership in Pakistan and how the political reforms affected the implementation of family planning in the country.

Dr. Shah also discussed the detailed levels and patterns of contraceptive use and the fertility regulation in Pakistan and what issues and challenges the country faces in terms of child and maternal mortality.

After discussing these topics in detail, he discussed health system challenges and interventions to increase contraceptive usage.

The event ended with Q/A session followed by a thank you note by Dr. Sikandar Hayat (Dean, Social Sciences) .



Meet the PRC team member

Ms. Khizra joined PRC as a Research Assistant in March 2020. She has MPhil Applied Economics degree from FCCU. Her MPhil dissertation was titled “Crude oil price and sectoral employment in Pakistan”. Ms. Nasir has also worked as a Research Fellow in economics department, FCCU in a research project “crop waste management and sustainable agriculture”. Her research interests include macroeconomics, econometrics, population studies and demography. She has excellent communication and research skills and has interest in sports like badminton & swimming.



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