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Difference in the Population Size between Rural and Urban Areas of Pakistan

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Abstract:

The purpose of present study is to explore the trend of difference in population size and growth rate of the two sectors of Pakistan i.e. rural and urban over a period of 57 years (from 1960 to 2017). It is important to know this trend for resources allocation and also to get an insight into related issues in future. The data has been obtained from secondary source of publically available site of World Bank. Results demonstrate a progressive increase in the population size of both the sectors. However, the pace of increase in population of rural sector is not only faster than that of urban but also it shows a much higher rate of increase after 1980. But in case of population growth rate it is urban sector that leads. Throughout the span of 57 years, for urban area the growth rate has varied from 4.6% to 3.1%. On the other hand, for rural areas, it ranges from 3.1% to 1.2%. Results are discussed along with their probable reason.

Keywords: Rural population, Urban population, Population growth rate, Population size

Introduction

Population size is one of the most important factors that affect the economy, resources, environment, and indeed the development of any country. That is why, there is kept an eye since long on the population statistics all over the world.

When we talk about any population, an important factor to keep in consideration is population growth rate. It can be defined as a rise in total number of beings who reside in a particular area in a given period of time. It is expressed in percentage. Statistically it can be obtained by subtracting the sum of mortality rate and emigrations from the sum of birth rate and immigrations (Posey, L, 2018).

Pakistan is considered as an agriculture country where the greater land is rural. In the census of 1998, 68% of the total population was declared to be rural while 32% was found to be residing in urban area. In the recent census, a little change is found with 64% of the total population as rural and 36% as urban. (Mubashir, Z, 2017). However, some concerns are also shown over this division. (Zaidi, S. A., 2017).

The purpose of present research is to investigate the trend of how the population size varied in the two geographical regions i.e. rural and urban over the period of time. It is important to know the differences for the allocation of resources and to tackle with the related social issues.

Methodology

The data has been obtained from secondary source of World Bank official website. Primary data was the population size of the Pakistan whereas the population growth was also taken in presenting better understanding. The unit of data was annual in terms of numbers. 57 years of data was found conveniently from publically available source. Data was combined and put into SPSS-20 (Statistical Package for Social Science) Software. Using chart builder, Trend Analysis was applied on the data through line charts. This method has been applied previously for analyzing the trend of different currencies with (ADF) Augmented Dickey Fuller Unit Root Test (Alvi and Kamal, 2012).

Results

Table 1 demonstrates a progressive increase in the population size of both the sectors during the time period of 57 years, from 1960 to 2017. Nevertheless, urban population shows a near stability for around beginning 18 years and then a gradual increase. On the other hand, the pace of increase in population of rural sector is not only faster than that of urban but also it shows a much higher rate of increase after 1980.

Table 2 demonstrates the population growth rate of the two sectors. Unlike linear population size, changes in growth of population of both the sectors is not gradual, rather there are fluctuations over the period of time. Both the sectors show a rapid increase in population growth during the 10 year period of 1972 to 1982. Afterwards a rapid and continuous decline is observed in both the sectors. Nevertheless, urban population growth showed a slight inclination after 2003. Overall, the growth rate of urban population is quite higher than that of rural population. Throughout the span of 57 years, for urban area the growth rate has varied from 4.6% to 3.1%. On the other hand, for rural areas, it ranges from 3.1% to 1.2%.

Table 1: Frequency of Rural and Urban Population

Table 2: Population Growth in Percentage

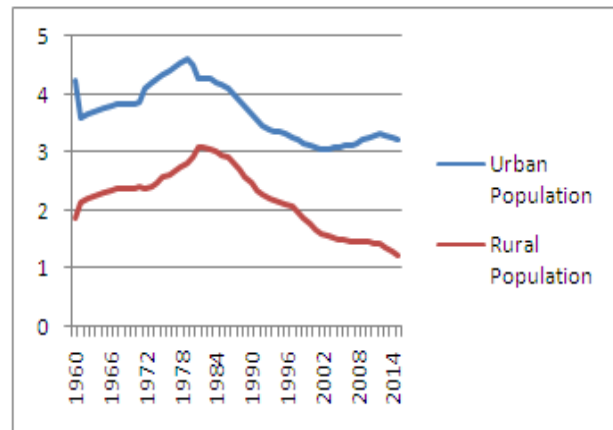
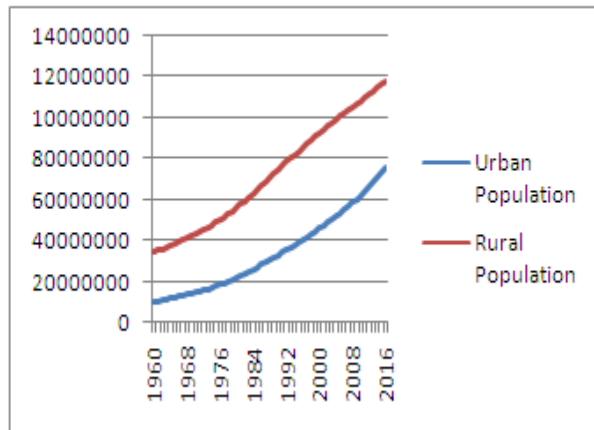


Table 3: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Range
Urban Population	57	34308821	19444207	9926529	75782131	65855602
Rural Population	57	72499344	26257951	34981764	117421345	82439581
Total Population	57	106808165	45580899	44908293	193203476	148295183

Note: Unit of observations for the population is in numbers.

Higher the deviation shows the volatility in data or small number of observations.

Discussions

Migration from rural to urban areas within the country seems to be the most important factor that has caused more rapid population growth rate in urban areas. Urbanization in Pakistan is quite faster due to biased provision of facilities and resources towards urban areas (Mubashir, Z, 2017). It is one of the major causes of decreasing population growth in rural side. (Jan and Iqbal, 2008).

Some authors claim that urbanization is even more rapid than it is demonstrated (Zaidi, S. A., 2017). It is argued that definitions of rural and urban lands need to be redefined. The dwellers of side-by areas of metropolitan cities are not counted as urban dwellers though they earn their living from the cities and use their resources too.

Though the population growth of urban area is on average almost twice than that of rural area, the population size is much bigger in rural areas because of the reason much bigger land of the country is regarded as rural almost in a ratio of 1:2. Moreover, birth rate in rural areas is greater than that of urban (Independent, 2017).

The reason for a sudden increase in the rate of population growth after 1970s in both the sectors seems be rapid immigrations from Afghanistan during that time in different sectors of the country. Because most refugees settled in rural areas, the rural sector shows much more increase in population size. While after 2000 the influx of Afghan refugees caused a rapid decrease.

This research can further extend by using more statistical analysis on the existing data in order to make clear picture about population trend of Pakistan.

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