



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND  
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL

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Vienna Institute of Demography  
Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2  
1020 Vienna, Austria

## WIC Colloquium

### Population Growth in South Asia and Its Effects on Human Development Indicators: Lessons Pakistan Can Learn from Bangladesh in Reducing Its Fertility

Wednesday, October 16th, 2019

11:00-12:00

No registration required

#### Mehtab S. Karim

Malir University of Science & Technology

South Asia with about 1.8 billion people, is world's poorest region after Sub-Saharan Africa. Due to a high population growth rate during the second half of the 20th century, the region has suffered from high infant-child mortality, low level of literacy (particularly among females) and endemic poverty. The demographic situation, particularly fertility decline, as was evidenced in East and South East Asia, did not occur in South Asia till the late 1980. Thus, it became evident that macro level socioeconomic indicators of the South Asia region were far from other regions in which have reached replacement level fertility. However, fertility in South Asian countries, except in Pakistan, has now declined to near replacement level. The example of Bangladesh is most prominent, where due to increase in contraceptive prevalence rate among currently married woman below age 50, from 7 to 62 percent, during 1975-2013, has resulted in a dramatic decline in fertility however, in Pakistan CPR only increased from 5 to 29 percent, with a much slower decline in fertility. Data from identical household sample surveys conducted in Bangladesh and Pakistan under the Demographic & Health Surveys (DHS) program in 2013-14 and 2017-18, is utilized to explain the reasons, such as public policies adopted in the two countries, which could have affected reproductive health situation of women in the two countries.

#### About the presenter

Professor Mehtab Karim is a Sociologist/ Demographer with substantial interest in comparative demographic studies. He is the Executive Director of Centre for Studies in Population & Health at Malir University of Science & Technology in Karachi, Pakistan. Earlier he worked as a Research Professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University in USA and as a Professor of Demography at Aga Khan University in Pakistan. Besides he has held academic appointments at Princeton University; London School of Economics, Johns Hopkins University and at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. Over the past two decades has been involved in the study of reproductive behavior and demographic transition in Muslim countries/populations. He has over 60 research publications, including as co-editor of a book "Islam, the State and Population" and co-author of "Future of the Global Muslim Population". At present he is working on comparing reproductive behavior issues in Pakistan and Bangladesh based on the analysis of Demographic & Health Surveys. He obtained PhD in Demography from Cornell University in USA.

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Department of Demography of the University of Vienna, the World Population Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (VID/ÖAW) | [www.wittgensteincentre.org](http://www.wittgensteincentre.org)

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