



**CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN POPULATION & HEALTH
MALIR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

The newly established Malir University of Science & Technology (MU) has a mission to improve the lot of ordinary citizens through affordable quality education and evidence based research to solve community problems. The university, first to be located in the low-middle income district of Malir in Karachi, is envisioned as a centre of excellence for teaching and research, a source of scholarship and a centre of innovative and creative ideas. Being located in close proximity of a rural area, teaching and active research at MU would revolve around crucial societal issues, where faculty members of the University will provided road maps to students, to leap into the future by finding solutions of problems being faced by the community, the province and the country at large, through research and problem-solving approaches.

Centre for Studies in Population & Health (CSPH) is the first research centres of MU. To serve the growing and evolving needs of the country and the region, **CSPH** aims to undertake research studies in areas of its interest in demographic issues and reproductive health, particularly to work on innovative programs to promote family planning and reduce infant-child and maternal mortality. For the purpose, besides encouraging faculty members of MU from the departments of Health Sciences, Economics and Development Studies, to conduct research in relevant issues, **CSPH** also maintains a roster of qualified and experienced professional who have worked or are working in the academia, the public and private sector organizations and international organizations. They have expertise in the fields of demography, health, economic development and statistical analysis. MU's faculty members and associates also have capabilities to facilitate **CSPH's** partner institutions to compete in the global market by providing reliable and high quality policy relevant products.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of **CSPH** is to contribute into policy formulation process and make improvements in the population and health sector, through dialogues and public debates, with the understanding that long-term planning and vision for Pakistan must be based on an in-depth understanding of demographic trends and health status of the population their impacts on overall social and economic developments in Pakistan.

OBJECTIVES

- The main objectives of **CSPH** is to understand issues which are of major concern to Pakistan and its region and to act as a catalyst between the academics, the government, the business community, journalists and other opinion-makers, through:
- conducting research on demographic and reproductive health issues and their impact on over all development issues;
- promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to better inform the public, the policy makers and business leaders by bringing them on a common platform;
- developing strategic thinking through conferences, seminars, media and executive briefings;
- establishing partnerships and linkages with other organizations in Pakistan and abroad to promote collaborative research activities;
- offering short certificate courses, diploma and Master's degree in population and reproductive health and related fields in collaboration with academic institutions in Pakistan and abroad; and
- establishing demographic and health surveillance system which could be up-scaled at provincial and national level (see DHSS below).

For proper implementation of its aims and objectives CSPHS will:

- ensure compilation and collection of relevant and accurate information for effective management of population and health projects in modern competitive environment;
- provide technical assistance to national, international, non-governmental and private sector organizations working in population and health sector related to development issues in Pakistan;
- serve as a platform for researchers, policy makers and business leaders to pool and exchange ideas, discuss research findings and analyses in seminars and workshops;
- disseminate research findings to policy makers, civil society organizations and business community through publications, internet and electronic media, of reports and quarterly newsletters;
- encourage the print and electronic media to publish and telecast relevant articles and programs to promote population and health issues in the country. For the purpose, an annual award will be given to the best published articles and TV programs related to demographic and related issues.

DEMOGRAPHIC & HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (DHSS)

In the last three decades, many developing countries have responded to the absence of effective health and population data by establishing demographic & Health surveillance systems (DHSS). This is considered as the first step toward proper population and health planning and meaningful health programs, specially in areas where vital registration and health system are incomplete or absent. The most well known and the largest DHSS was established in Matlab, Bangladesh, in 1963. By providing robust, reliable information through DHSS on the health problems facing poor communities, Matlab made major contributions to the development of population and health policies in Bangladesh. Over the past few decades similar sites have been developed in several African countries by the INDEPTH network which have shown similar impacts on health policy. The characteristics of these field site are the following:

- A geographically defined population under continuous demographic monitoring, with timely production of data on all births, deaths, and migrations;
- This monitoring system provides a platform for assessing a wide range of issues affecting health status of the population by monitoring individuals, households and residential units in a well-defined geographic area.

DHSS begins with an initial census, which defines and registers each individual in the target population. Age, sex, marital status, ethnicity, education levels, occupation data are collected at this stage about each household member along with household wealth, access to facilities such as water and sanitation and births, deaths (by age and sex) and in- and out-migration in the household during the past year. Regular subsequent rounds of data collection monitor changes to this population by gathering information on births, deaths and migrations. These update rounds also record other key events such as marriage, divorce, pregnancy and changes in employment status. The frequency of visits to households varies every three months. Data are collected through face-to-face interviews using an electronic devise. The aim of establishing DHSS in a per-urban and rural area in Karachi, is to demonstrate that through proper surveillance effective family planning and reproductive health services can be delivered aiming at improving the lives of people living. By establishing a reliable information base, DHSS sites can help policy-makers set health priorities and allocate resources more efficiently. As a platform for the testing of health interventions, they can provide feedback on programs' effectiveness and inform future policy development.

OUR TEAM**Executive Director**

Dr. Mehtab S. Karim, is a nationally and internationally recognized social scientist and demographer. He received MA in Social Science from the University of Chicago, USA and PhD in Demography and Human Development from Cornell University, New York, USA. He has held academic positions at universities in USA, UK and Pakistan. During 2008-16, he was a Professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University in Virginia, USA and was Senior Research Fellow at Pew Research Center in Washington DC, USA. Earlier he served as an Associate Professor and later professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Aga Khan University in Karachi. His other academic appointments include; Senior Research Fellow in the Office of Population Research at Princeton University, USA; Senior Associate in the Department of Population Dynamics at Johns Hopkins University, USA; Research Fellow at Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics, UK; Research Fellow at the East-West Population Institute, Hawaii, USA and Research Demographer at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad. During 1991-95 he worked at the World Bank in Washington DC and later was a consultant to UNFPA in New York. During 1991-2008 he served on various committees constituted by the Government of Pakistan and was a member of the Governing Council of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics during 2011-14. During 2017-18 as the lead UNFPA consultant he developed the implementation plan for the Sindh Population Policy 2016. He has authored or co-authored three books, over six monographs and more than 60 research articles and book chapters.

Distinguished Senior Fellow and Professor of Health Sciences

Dr. Shershah Syed, is a well-known gynaecologist and practitioner and researcher in the field of maternal health. He obtained MBBS Degree from Dow Medical College, DORCPI from Royal College of Physicians, Ireland, Diploma in Family Planning from Dublin, MRCOG from London, Diploma in Emergency Obstructive Care, Uppsala University, Sweden, FRCOG from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, London. He is the former Head of the Department of Obs/Gyne at Sindh Government Qatar Hospital, Karachi was Associate Professor of Obs/Gyne at Dow Medical College, Civil Hospital Karachi and served as a Research Registrar, St. Hellier Hospital and Adden Brooks Hospital Cambridge, UK. He has been associated with several prestigious national and international NGOs focusing on human rights and health rights in particular. Several of his research papers have been published in Pakistan and abroad.

Distinguished Senior Fellow and Professor of Economics

Professor Dr. Muhammad Pervez Wasim, did PhD in Economics with interest in economic demography. Previously, he served in different capacities, during his tenure with Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC) at the University of Karachi, including as in-charge of Graduate Studies Program of AERC. Since retiring from AERC in 2017 he is with Malir University. He has published more than 50 research papers in International and National Journals.

Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Professor of Development Studies

Dr. Biquis Rehman is a Social Development specialist with PhD in Sociology with concentration in Reproductive Health. She has been teaching at the University of Karachi and Iqra University and has substantial experience of working with NGOs including as Chief Executive Officer of Council for Participatory Development, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and Human Development Foundation. She has been also a consultant to the government on several projects, has organized training programs and prepared reports on social development.

Research Associates

Dr. Neelofar Sami, MBBS, PhD (Women Health)
Mr. Imran Ahmed, MSc (Statistics)
Ms. Uzma Bano, MA, MPhil (Sociology, Development Studies)
Mr. Asher Feroze MSc (Statistics), MPhil (Economics)

Research Officer

Ms. Afra Abadan, MA (Population Sciences)

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