

PAKISTAN

Statistical Profile

Compiled by Farooq Pasha

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN



The Islamic Republic of Pakistan declared its independence from Great Britain on August 14, 1947. At that time Pakistan was comprised of the Muslim-majority provinces of Baluchistan, East Bengal, North West Frontier Province, West Punjab and Sind. The modern state of Pakistan occupies an area of 340,403 square miles (881,640 square kilometers)¹, bordering the countries of Afghanistan, China, India and Iran. Pakistan is home to one of the oldest civilization of the Indus Valley with a long, rich cultural history dating back to pre-historic times. The latest estimates of Pakistani population are in the neighborhood of 173 million², making it the sixth most populous nation of the world. Islam is the most prevalent religion with 97%³ of the population belonging to one of the two main sects of Islam – Sunni (77%) and Shia (20%).

About this Statistical Profile -

Organizations striving to be employers-of-choice in different countries around the world need access to current information about the economic, social, political, and demographic characteristics of the countries where their employees live and work.

The Country Profile Series focuses on statistics that can guide decision-making at the workplace: workforce highlights, economic highlights, and population highlights. This Country Profile is part of a set of resources about Pakistan available on the website of the Global Perspectives Institute: www.bc.edu/agingandwork.

At the time of its independence Pakistan was a very poor and predominantly agricultural country. Over the last 60 years the Pakistani economy has shifted from agricultural to industrial and service sectors; in 1947 approximately one half of the total GDP was accounted for by the agricultural sector, while in 2005 agriculture accounted for one fifth of the total GDP⁴. Following the tumultuous 1990's – a decade marred by economic policy mismanagement, mixed levels of foreign investment, and political instability – the Pakistani economy has been in recovery. In 2005, the World Bank named Pakistan the top macroeconomic reformer in its region and within the top 10 macroeconomic reformers globally⁵.

Since 2004 Pakistan has averaged GDP growth rates of between 6-8%. However, inflation remains one of the biggest threats to the economy, jumping to more than 9% in 2005 before easing to 7.9% in 2006⁶. Pakistan has been doing well in reducing its poverty rate but still more work needs to be done. Pakistan is a member of the World Trade Organization and has bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with many nations such as China and various international organizations. Pakistan is a founding member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and Organization of the Islamic Conference.

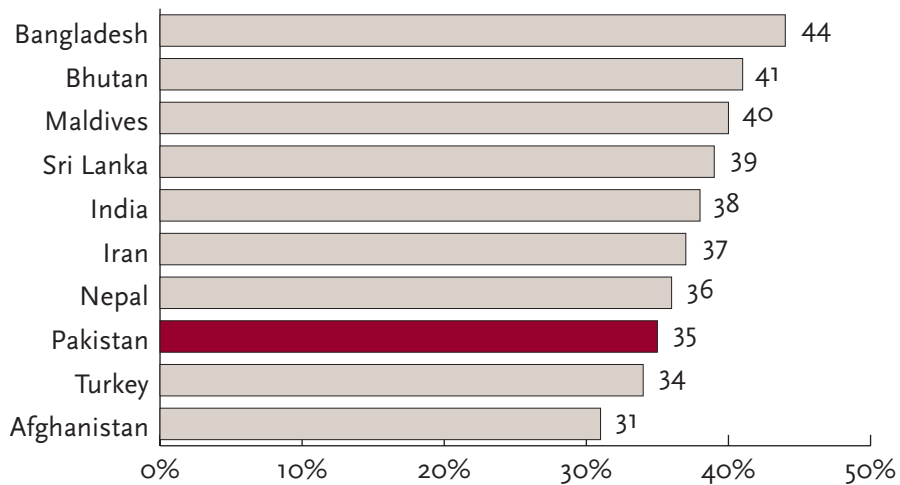
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LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌐 57% of the total Pakistani population is in the labor force, where in Pakistan labor force includes persons age 10 and above.⁷
- 🌐 Economically active population in Pakistan is projected to increase from 62 million in 2007 to 93 million in 2020.⁸
- 🌐 The “economically active population” comprises all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labor for the production of goods and services during a specified time-reference period.
- 🌐 The un-employed rate at the end of the labor force survey 2005-06 was 5%.⁷
- 🌐 In 2005, 71.9% of Pakistani employees reported to have worked 40 hours or more in a given week.⁷
- 🌐 In 2005, 8.4% of Pakistani employees worked less than 25 hours in a given week.⁷
- 🌐 34.9% of the total civilian employed labor force reported being self-employed in 2005.⁷
- 🌐 35% of the Pakistani population is employed, compared to 44% in Bangladesh and 38% in India.⁹ (see figure 1a)
- 🌐 Pakistan has one of the lowest rates of employment for women in this age group compared to other South Asian Countries (see figure 2)
- 🌐 In 2007, the employment rate for people age 50-54 was lowest in Pakistan (66.6%) and highest in Bangladesh (75.2%).⁸ (see figure 4 for comparisons the employment rates for each age group in Pakistan with India and Bangladesh)

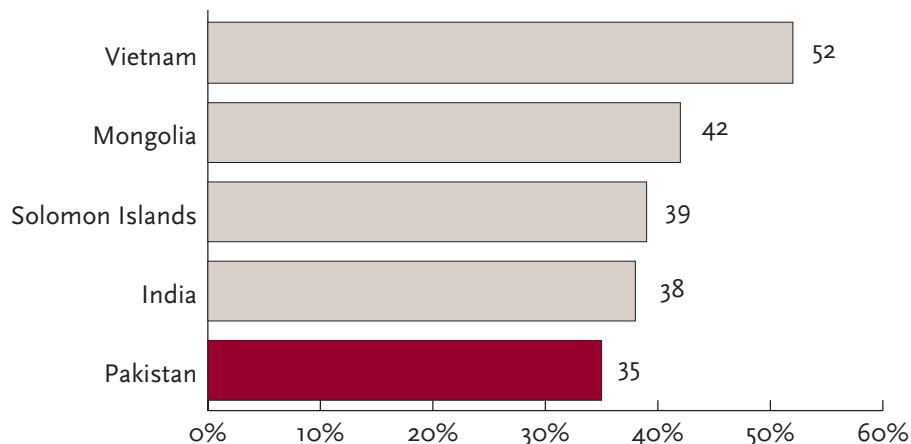
figure 1a. Employed as a percent of Total Population, selected South Asian Countries, 2006



Source: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

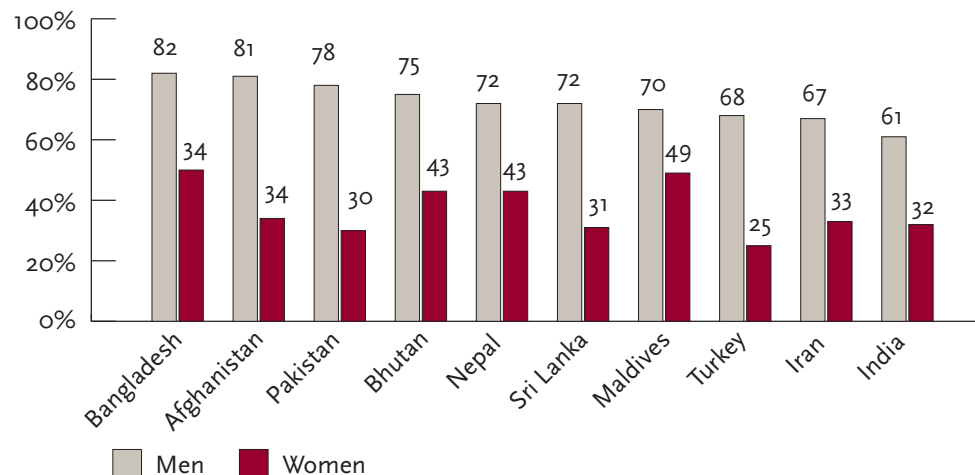
Figure 1b compares the rate of employment as a percent of total population in Pakistan with other countries with low gross national incomes. The employment rates of the countries included range from 35% in Pakistan to 52% in Vietnam.

figure 1b. Employed as a percent of Total Population, selected Low GNI Countries, 2006



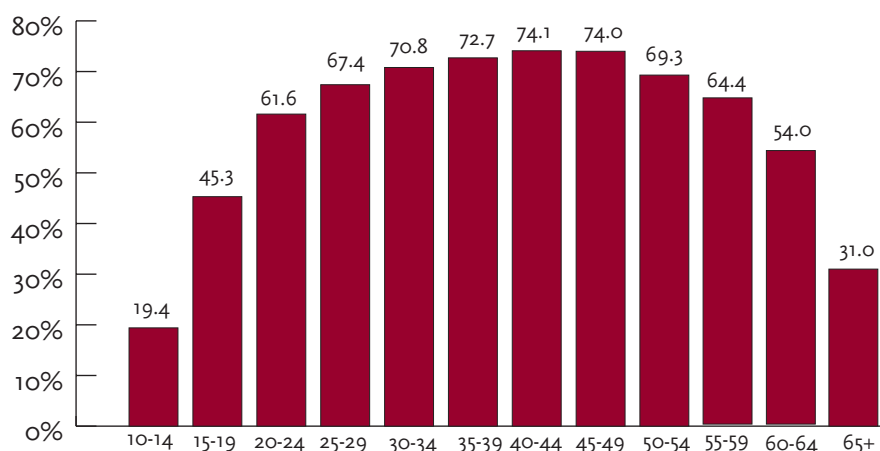
Source: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

figure 2. Employment Rates, Age 15-64 by Gender: Pakistan and comparable South Asian Nations, 2006



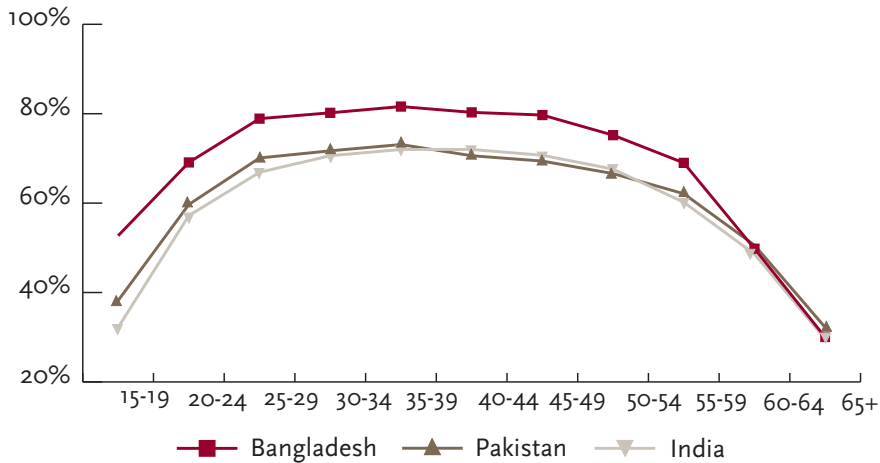
Source: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

figure 3. Employment Rates in Pakistan, within age group, 2005-06



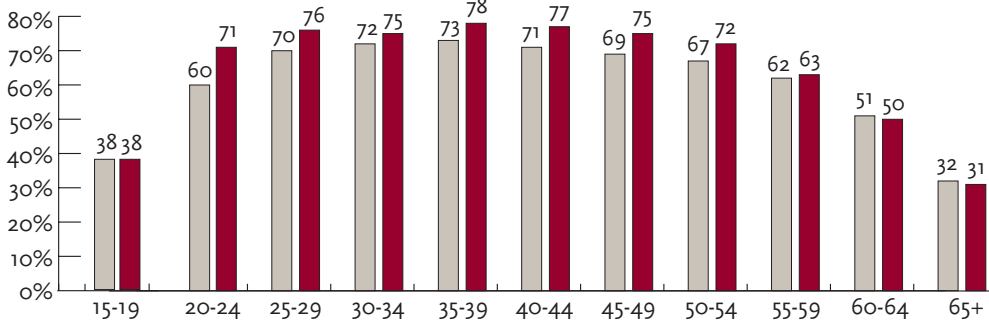
Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics Pakistan

figure 4. Employment Rates in Pakistan compared to selected South Asian Countries, within age group, 2007



Source: International Labor Organization

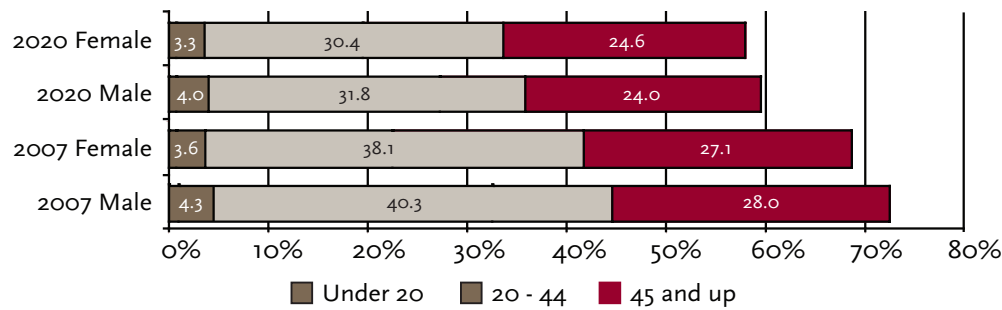
figure 5a. Current and Projected Economically Active Population Estimates and Projections in Pakistan, within age group, 2007 and 2020



Source: International Labor Organization

Figure 5a, compares the 2007 employment rates for the different age groups in Pakistan with the projected rates for 2020.⁹ Figure 5b compares these same rates between genders.

figure 5b. Current and Projected Percentage of Total Population Economically Active in Pakistan, 2007 and 2020

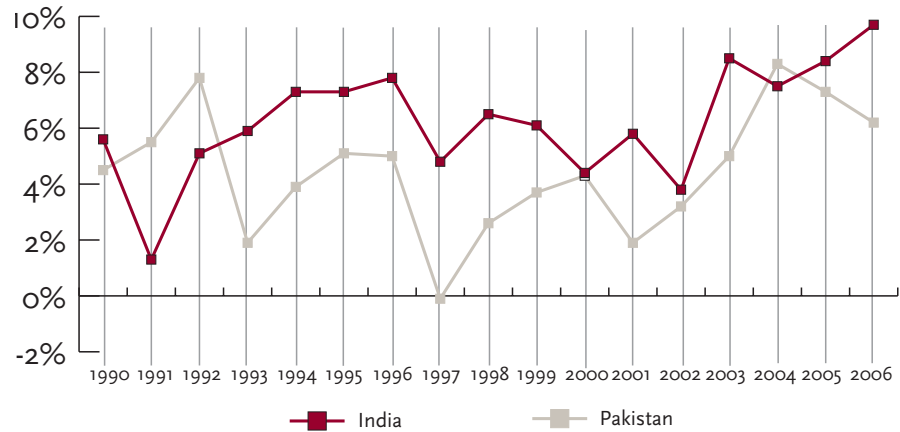


Source: International Labor Organization

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

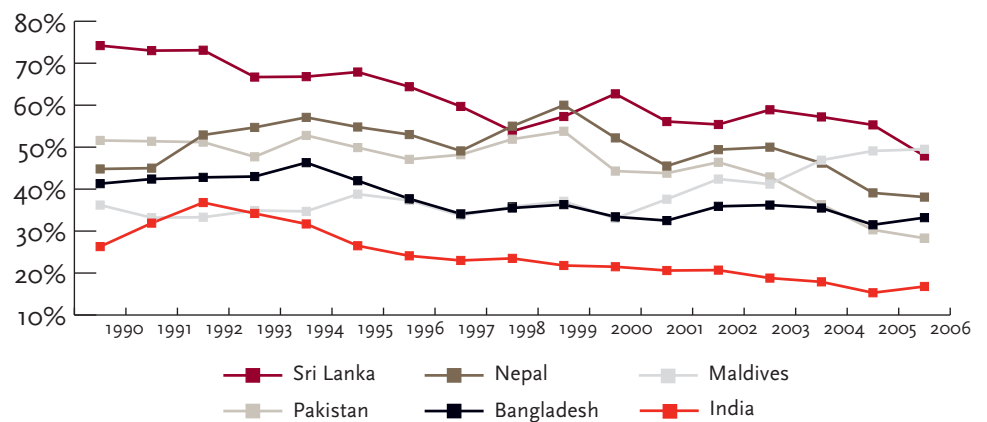
- 🌐 Gross Domestic Product per capita in Pakistan was \$716, while it was \$739 for India and \$461 for Bangladesh.⁹
- 🌐 The gross domestic product of Pakistan shrunk by 0.1% in 1997. Gross Domestic Product growth, stayed above 1.9% before and after 1997. Growth rate peaked in 2004 at 8.3%, and was 6.2% in 2006.¹⁰

figure 6. GDP Growth, Pakistan and India, 1990 -2006



Source: International Monetary Fund

figure 7. Total External Debt as percentage of GDP, selected South Asian Countries, 1990-2006

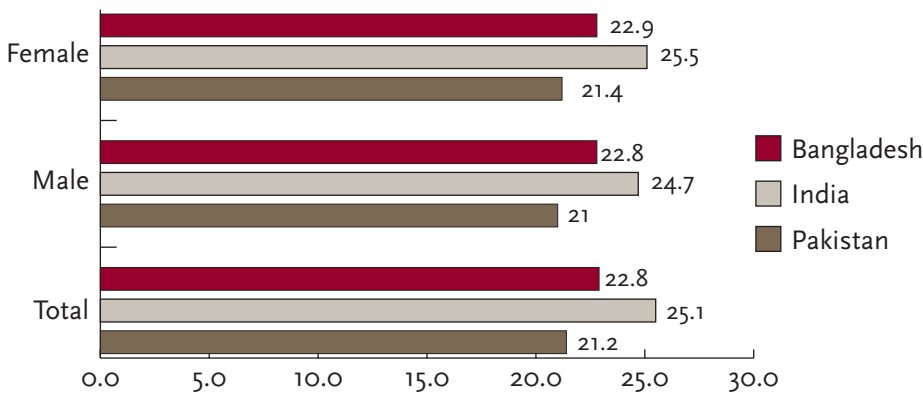


Source: World Bank

DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

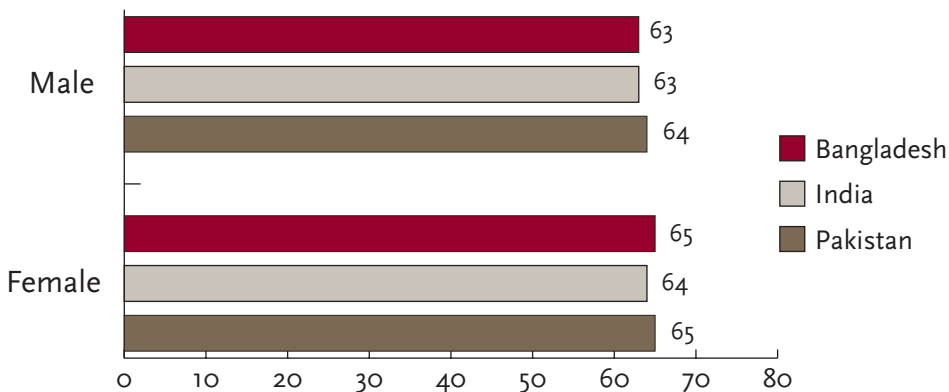
- 🌐 In 2007, the Pakistani population was 160,943,000, compared to 1,151,751,000 for India and 155,991,000 for Bangladesh.⁹
- 🌐 The median age of the Pakistani population in 2007 was 21.2 years, 21 years for men and 21.4 for women.⁷ (See figure 7)
- 🌐 The life expectancy at birth for the Pakistani population in 2005 was 64 years for men and 65 years for women.¹² (See figure 8)
- 🌐 Total Fertility rate, indicates the number of children to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of her life. According to Pakistan Demographic Survey of 2005, total fertility rate for Pakistani women is 3.8 children per woman.¹³

figure 8. Median Age, selected South Asian countries, 2007



Source: The World Factbook 2007

figure 9. Life Expectancy at birth, selected South Asian Countries, 2005



Source: Asian Development Bank

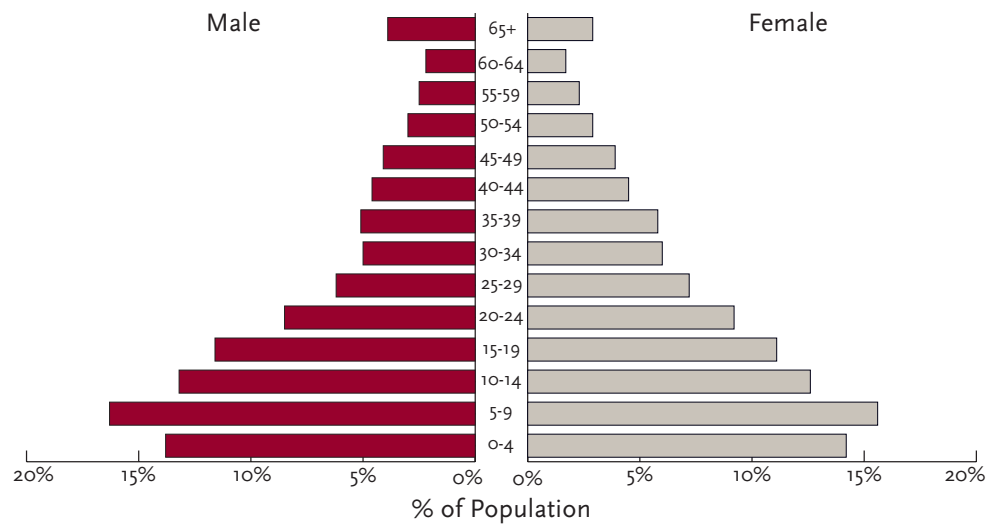
🌐 In Pakistan, 6.0% of the male population and 4.6% of the female population is 60 or older.¹³ In comparison:

In India, 7.0% of the male population and 7.7% of the female population is 60 or older.¹⁴

In Bangladesh, 6.6% of the male population and 5.6% of the female population is 60 or older.¹⁵

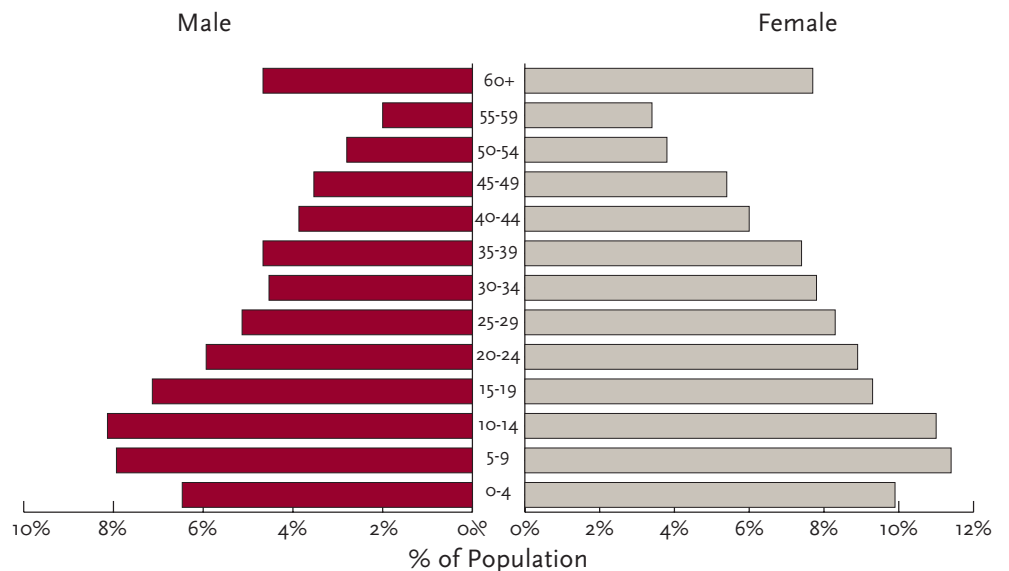
🌐 In Pakistan, there is a bulge in the population under 25 years. Bangladesh and India show similar dynamics for the younger population but Bangladesh has a bulge in female population for some age groups. (See figures 10a-10c)

figure 10a. Population Distribution of Pakistan, 2005-06



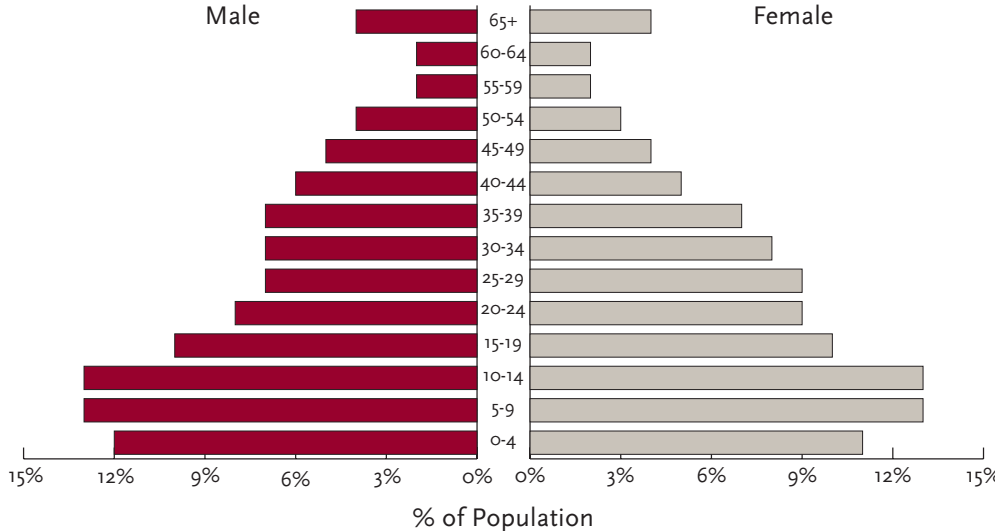
Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics

figure 10b. Population Distribution by age of India, 2005-06



Source: National Sample Survey Organization India

figure 10c. Population Distribution by age in Bangladesh, 2004



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Established in 2007 by the Center on Aging & Work, the Global Perspectives Institute is an international collaboration of scholars and employers committed to the expansion of the quality of employment available to the 21st century multi-generational workforce in countries around the world.

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The Global Perspectives Institute focuses on innovative and promising practices that might be adopted by employers and policy-makers.

The Institute's research, publications, and international forums contribute to:

- 🌐 a deeper understanding of the employment experiences and career aspirations of employees of different ages who work in countries around the world;
- 🌐 informed decision making by employers who want to be employers-of-choice in different countries; and
- 🌐 innovative thinking about private-public partnerships that promote sustainable, quality employment.

Farooq Pasha is currently a doctoral student in Economics at Boston College. A native of Pakistan, he is also presently working as a Research Affiliate with the Sloan Center on Aging & Work, where he is helping to develop the Global Context Study.

The Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College was founded in 2005 with a multi-million dollar grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Center partners with workplace decision-makers in evidence-based research on employer and employee responses to the increasingly global multi-generational workforce. These collaborations focus on quality of employment with the aim to inform employers with research data to attract, engage and retain high quality industry talent. As of 2008, the Center has three research streams – the US National Initiatives, the State Initiatives and the Global Initiatives. Their collective mission is to gather information and collaborate with leaders in the public, non-profit and business sectors in an effort to leverage today's multi-generational workforce and globalization as competitive advantages in the 21st century economy.

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