



**WORKSHOP ON MONITORING FOOD SECURITY
IN THE CONTEXT OF 2030 SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

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**CHALLENGES IN CONDUCTING
SURVEYS/CENSUSES**

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INTRODUCTION

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is a national statistical organization responsible for collection, processing, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistical data relating to various sectors of the economy through primary, secondary sources and administrative record of the government.

FUNCTIONS OF PBS

Important Functions of PBS are as under:

- Collection, compilation, analysis of statistical data and dissemination.
- Publishing of statistical data.
- Supply of statistical information to national and international agencies and researchers.
- Research with a view to improve statistics.

FUNCTIONS OF PBS

- Exchange of statistical information with foreign countries.
- Technical advice and statistical cooperation with other departments.
- Evaluation and introduction of standard concepts, definitions and classification pertaining to national statistical series.
- Undertaking the national censuses and surveys.

COVERAGE OF PBS

PBS covers four provinces (Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan), Capital Territory, AJK and Gilgit/Baltistan for the purpose of statistical information.

CHALLENGES IN CONDUCTING SURVEYS/CENSUS

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) formerly called Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) has been facing many challenges/problems in conducting surveys/censuses since long. Many of the problems have been resolved but some problems are still have to be resolved. The details of the problems and the efforts which have been made to resolve these problems are given below:

SAMPLING FRAME

- A good sample frame is prerequisite for conducting surveys/censuses. PBS is facing many problems regarding sampling frames. It has made a lot of efforts to update its sample frames. Details is as under:
- PBS has developed its own sampling frame for urban areas dividing the cities into 54904 blocks comprising of 200 to 250 houses. The frame has been updated regularly.
- For rural areas the list of villages/mouzas/dehs prepared on the basis of Population Census 1998 is taken as a sample frame. The updation of Rural Area Sampling Frame is under process.

SAMPLING FRAME

The following censuses/surveys are using this sampling frame:

- i) Population And Housing Census
- ii) Agriculture Census
- iii) Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLM)
- iv) Pakistan Labour Force Survey
- v) Small Scale And Household Manufacturing Industries Survey
- vi) Private Building Construction Survey
- vii) Rent Survey

SAMPLING FRAME

In Census of Manufacturing Industries 2005-06 (C.M.I), directories of Industries prepared by Directorate of Industries were used as sample frame. The frame had many drawbacks. Now PBS has developed its own Business Register which is being used as a sample frame in CMI 2015-16.

PROBLEMS OF FIELD STAFF

- PBS's field staff faces hardship in approach the target areas to be covered in survey due poor transport system and unavailability of own transport.
- Unawareness of importance of the survey/census on the part of respondents.
- Low level of education of respondent resultantly create problems in collection of information/filling of questionnaires.
- Lack of use of latest techniques to collect the information.

USE OF CAPI AND TABLETS

- Most of the regular surveys' job is normally completed according to target dates while in most of adhoc surveys, the field work and processing job takes a long time.
- PBS has planned to use Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (C.A.P.I) for the field work and tablets for processing the data in future.

NON RESPONSE

- The surveys, using sample frame of households developed and updated by PBS have good response rate while the surveys which are based on frames of establishments, have low response.
- In CMI 2005-06, which was based on sampling frame developed by directorate of industries, response rate was very low and consequently the results were not very reliable.