

Exploring Rural Sociology of Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract: Rural sociology in Punjab, Pakistan, is a basic field of study that looks at the social designs, social elements, and financial states of rustic networks. This research paper expects to investigate the provincial humanism of Punjab, Pakistan remembering the vital parts of rustic life for Punjab, including conventional rural practices, connection frameworks, social definition, and the effect of modernization. The rustic areas of Punjab address a huge part of the populace and assume a critical part in the nation's economy and social texture. This paper will break down different perspectives like social designs, social practices, monetary exercises, and local area elements inside country Punjab. By looking at these elements, this study tries to give an extensive comprehension of the country human science of Punjab and its suggestions for the locale's turn of events. For the examination, contextual investigation has been finished after correlation with the provincial areas of France city to get the difficulties tackled and feature what could be what's in store possibilities in building the rustic culture in a superior way like non-industrial nations. The research features how factors like movement, industrialization, and government approaches impact provincial occupations. Also, it digs into difficulties like destitution, ignorance, orientation aberrations, and admittance to medical services and schooling. By understanding these elements, the review gives bits of knowledge into manageable provincial turn of events and strategy proposals for working on the financial states of Punjab's country populace.

Keywords: Social, Rural, Punjab, Government, Provincial, Industrialization, Social Designs, Provincial Humanism

Introduction

"Punjab" is a mix of two Persian words, "Punj" meaning five and "ab" significance water meaning five waters and is considered "the place that is known for five streams". Punjab, Pakistan, is known for its dominantly provincial scene, with horticulture being the essential control of a huge piece of the population. Thus, the rural sociology of Punjab is critical in figuring out the social elements of the locale. By dissecting these viewpoints, we plan to reveal insight into the novel qualities of provincial Punjab and how they impact the general social texture of the area.

Rural Sociology is the investigation of social designs and cycles in country regions, including the effect of agribusiness, local area. A basic field of study looks at the special social, monetary, and social elements of provincial networks. With regards to Punjab, Pakistan, rustic humanism gives significant bits of knowledge into the lives and difficulties looked by the transcendently horticultural populace (Jan, 2017)

Rural lifestyle in Pakistan has a rich verifiable foundation that traces all the way back to the beginning of humanistic exploration in the country. This lifestyle envelops a scope of key ideas and hypotheses that assistance in grasping the elements of country networks. For example, the idea of social change inside rustic regions, as proposed by social scientist Ibn Khaldun, features the cyclic idea of social designs in provincial Pakistan. In addition, the hypothesis of social definition, especially with regards to standing frameworks common in country locales, reveals insight into the various leveled association of networks (Alavi, 2018). The investigation of country social science is significant in Pakistan as it gives experiences

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into the extraordinary difficulties and potential open doors looked by rustic populaces, for example, admittance to essential administrations, land residency issues, and social disparities. By analyzing these angles, policymakers and specialists can foster designated mediations to address the necessities of provincial networks and advance economical turn of events (Rachmayani, 2015)

Literature Review

Previous studies on rural life in Pakistan have focused in on different parts of this life, including land proprietorship designs, horticultural practices, and social pecking orders. While some examination has been led on country Punjab explicitly. By auditing existing writing on sociology of rural areas in Pakistan and Punjab, we can acquire experiences into the major questions and difficulties confronting country networks in the district as referenced underneath:

During the English frontier rule, the agrarian economy of country Punjab was fundamentally changed. The post-freedom time frame saw the rise of country advancement programs and the effect of land changes. The road to financial improvement for a territory like Punjab, where around 68% of the populace is classified as living in country regions, relies upon approaches zeroed in on rural turn of events (Mughal, 2019). e farming area, defined extensively to incorporate the harvest, domesticated animals, ranger service and sherries subsectors, utilizes very nearly 51% of the rustic labor force in Punjab; consequently, strategies zeroed in on raising ranch salaries straightforwardly affect rustic wages. Further, rural turn of events additionally envelops expanding these regions' openness to metropolitan focuses, decreasing their need to go away for necessities including wellbeing and training, working on their foundation through the arrangement of power and gas while extending open doors for non-ranch business (Hayat et al., 2023).

Case Study of Rural Sociology of Pakistan’s Province

The rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan, are described by a variable and rapidly increasing population. This has prompted to a young, predominantly male population, with a huge proportion of the population under the age of 25.

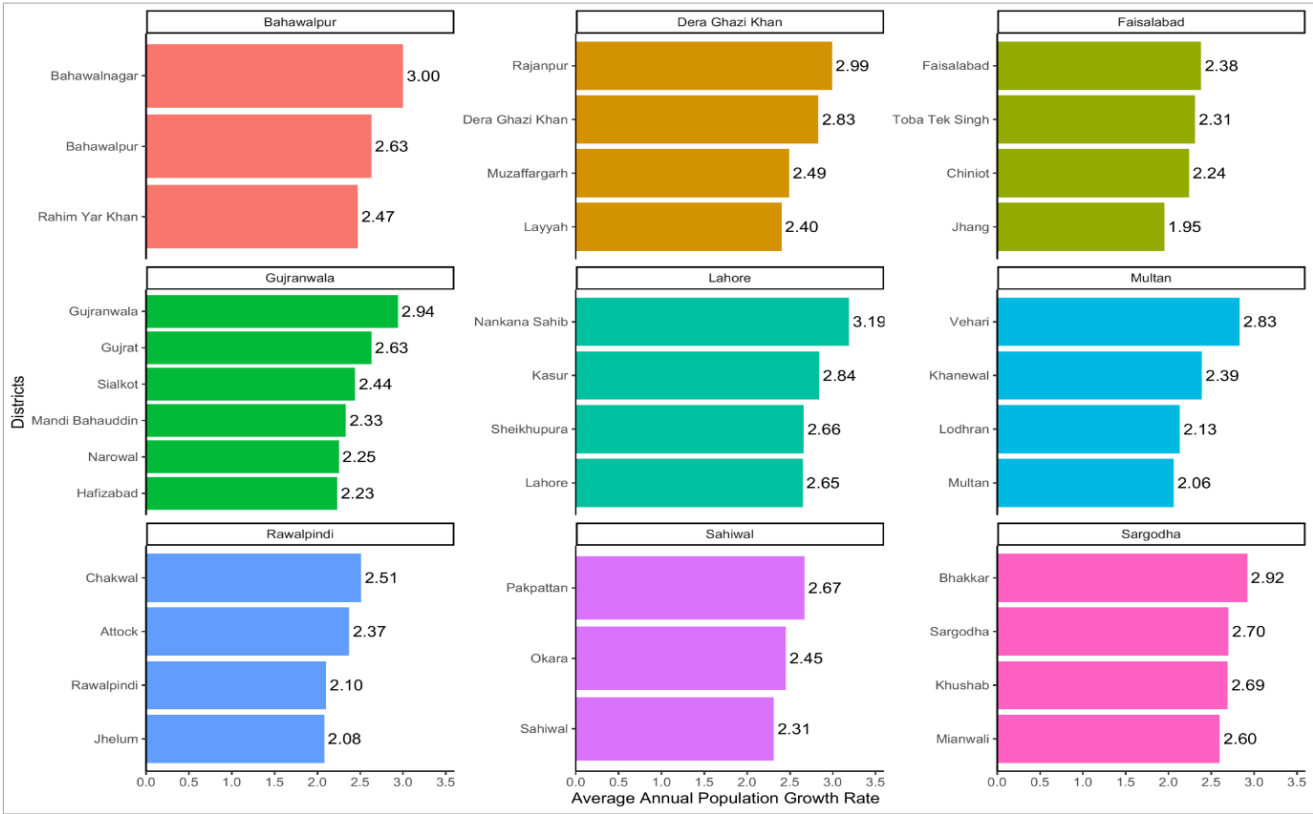
Table 1
Population dynamics of urban and rural areas of Pakistan (Source: punjab.gov.pk)

S#	Region	Area	Households	Pop2023	AHS	Pop2017	GR
1	Pakistan	All	38,340,566	241,499,431	6.30	207,684,626	2.55
2	Pakistan	Rural	23,323,551	147,748,707	6.33	132,013,789	1.90
3	Pakistan	Urban	15,017,015	93,750,724	6.24	75,670,837	3.65

Table 2

S#	Region	Area	Households	Pop2023	AHS	Pop2017	GR
1	Pakistan	Rural	23,323,551	147,748,707	6.33	132,013,789	1.90
2	Punjab	Rural	11,719,520	75,715,270	6.46	69,442,450	1.46
3	Sindh	Rural	4,744,589	25,771,071	5.43	23,021,876	1.90
4	KP	Rural	4,969,183	34,724,801	6.99	29,626,670	2.69
5	Balochistan	Rural	1,664,015	10,282,574	6.18	8,928,428	2.39
6	ICT	Rural	226,244	1,254,991	5.55	994,365	3.97

Figure 1
Population in different areas (Source: punjab.gov.pk)



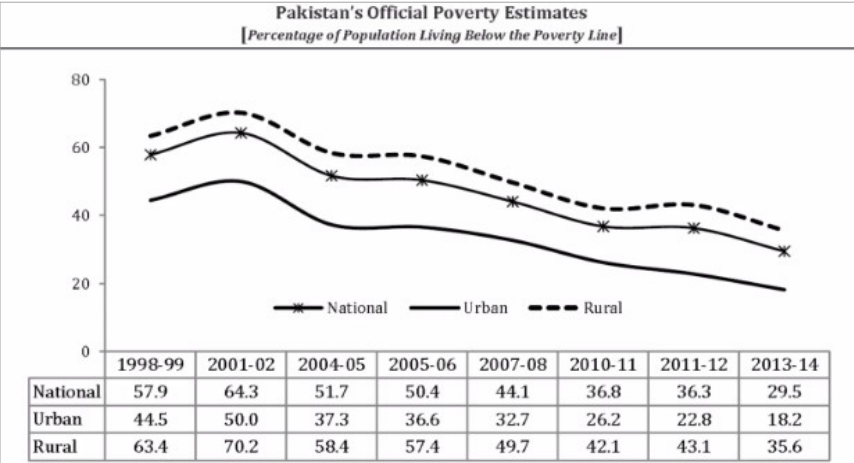
The rural society of Punjab, Pakistan, is portrayed by a complex and profoundly dug in arrangement of social separation, which is many times established in the conventional position framework. This progressive system, which depends on occupation, lineage, and financial status, essentially affects the dispersion of force, assets, and valuable open doors inside country networks. The predominant landowners and upper-position people will generally hold most of the social and political impact, while the lower-station and landless people frequently face underestimation and restricted admittance to essential privileges and administrations. The centralization of land and abundance in the possession of the upper-station landowners has prompted a lopsided designation of assets and open doors, further digging in the current social ordered progression.

The provincial areas of Punjab, Pakistan, are portrayed by profoundly dug in orientation standards and power elements that frequently limit the potential open doors and privileges of ladies. This unevenness in orientation jobs and the absence of ladies' strengthening have extensive results, including high paces of maternal mortality, low female education, and the avoidance of ladies from dynamic cycles inside the family and the local area (Lyon, 2004).

Punjabi culture is a blend of different cultures and traditions. Punjabi people are cordial in nature and are really hospitable. Punjabis are heterogeneous groups comprising of different tribes, clans and communities (Bhatti & Michon, 2005). Punjabi language is good to speak and has its own charm in it. Sports played in Punjab are very refreshing and fascinating. Punjabi folk music and stories are appealing and create sense of love and care in the listener (Kapuria&Kumar, 2022). Punjabi traditional dress is also likeable and attractive. [Some festivals](#) enjoyed in Punjab province are Basant, Kamak katae, Teej etc. (Zaidi, 1970).

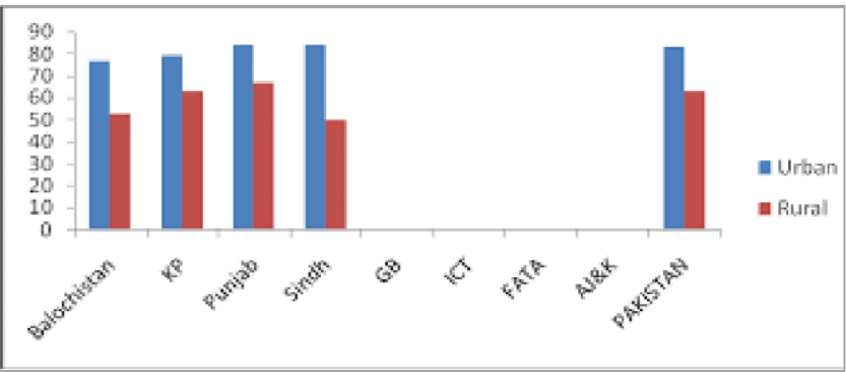
Over the last two decades, the percentage of poverty declined from 61.6% in 1998-99 to 21.5% in 2018-19 in Pakistan. In urban areas it has decreased from 47.4% to 10.7% and from 67.5% to 27.6% in rural areas during the same time.

Figure 2
Poverty Dynamics of urban and rural areas of Pakistan (Source: punjab.gov.pk)



Pakistan's rural population is disproportionately affected by the low quality of the public education system, with girls and young women the most underserved. Of the 20 million children not going to school, 4 out of 5 live in rural parts of the country, and of those, 60 percent are girls.

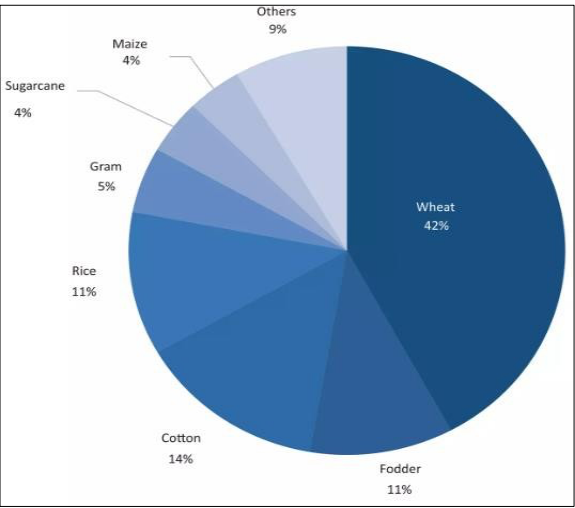
Figure 3
Education Economics of Punjab (Source: punjab.gov.pk)



Access to reliable irrigation is a major challenge for many rural farmers in Punjab, with limited infrastructure and unreliable water supplies. This has led to a dependence on traditional, labor-intensive irrigation methods, which can hinder productivity and limit the potential for agricultural development. Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy in

Punjab, Pakistan. The region is known for its fertile land and diverse crop production, including staple crops like wheat, rice, and cotton, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables. However, the land ownership patterns in rural Punjab are often characterized by a high degree of inequality, with a small number of large landowners controlling a significant portion of the arable land. This unequal distribution of land has led to the emergence of a class-based social structure, with landowners holding significant power and influence over the smaller, landless farmers.

Figure 4
Food economics of Punjab (Source: punjab.gov.pk)



Also, there are several past and ongoing rural development programs like village AID program, Punjab rural development program, and rural development through local council etc.

Thus, rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan, face a myriad of challenges that hinder their overall development and the well-being of their communities. These challenges include the lack of access to basic infrastructure and services, the persistence of social inequalities and caste-based discrimination, the marginalization of women, and the disruptive effects of rural-urban migration. The rapid growth of urban populations due to rural-urban migration has led to the development of informal settlements and

the overburdening of urban infrastructure and resources. The outflow of the working-age population from rural areas has resulted in labor shortages, reduced agricultural productivity, and the disruption of traditional social structures (Ecevit & Zachariah, [1978](#)).

Case Study of Rural Sociology of France's Province

The countryside is punctuated by historic villages, thriving farmlands, offering a glimpse into traditional French rural life with diverse terrains, including rolling hills, picturesque vineyards, and charming agricultural fields. Rural Ile de France has dynamic, densely populated, diverse communities in urban settings. This international case study suggests that there is infrastructure, public transportation, and advanced utilities, multicultural neighborhoods, varied traditions, and global influences (Hervieu & Purseigle, [2008](#)).

Figure 5

Livelihood of France Province (Source: Sciencedirect.com)



With rich cultural heritage rooted in traditions like local festivals, traditional crafts, and culinary customs they have close-knit social structure fostering communal activities such as storytelling, traditional dances, and folk music performances. Organic farming practices promote soil health and biodiversity, leading to sustainable agricultural systems. Viticulture plays a crucial role in the rural economy, producing renowned French wines and supporting local communities (Annes, [2018](#)). There are several rural development programs like community development initiatives local youth mentorship program, empowering young people with leadership skills, community garden project, rural entrepreneurship workshops, and addressing depopulation empowering local with resources to start their own businesses. (Amman, [2023](#))

Major and Minor Research Questions

- How do social structural changes in rural communities of Pakistan and France compare, particularly in terms of caste or class systems, family dynamics, and the impact of migration on rural development?
- How can we decrease the problems in rural society of Punjab?
- How can rural sociology help in progress of country?

Research Objectives

- To provide solutions to the challenges faced by rural society of Punjab, Pakistan
- To make the rural community a prosperous community after analyzing the case of France
- To address the concerns of people living in rural areas of Punjab.

Methodology

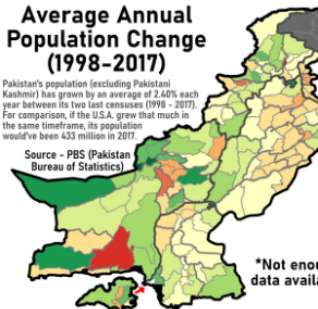
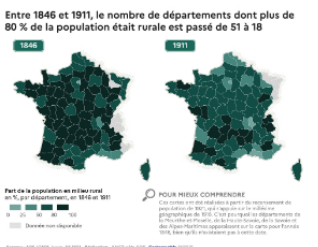
After selection of a problem statement, it is really important to formulate an efficient methodology which can help in understanding the solution to that subject. This study utilizes a combination of qualitative research methods to explore the rural sociology of Punjab, Pakistan. Data is collected through national and international case study in rural communities across Punjab and France respectively (Marczyk et al., [2005](#)).

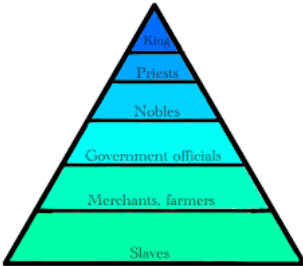
Through this approach, the comparative analysis of both countries tells us the ways which can be adopted in Pakistan in order to make its rural sociology with better opportunities. Hence, comprehensive future prospects for the betterment of rural sociology of Punjab are obtained (Mackiewicz, 2018).

Comparative analysis between rural provinces of Pakistan and France

The comparative analysis between rural Punjab and rural ille de France gives us the insight into the solutions to the existing challenges or constraints in rural Punjab and what betterment can be done through rural ille de France observations to Punjab (Hofstee, 1963).

Table 3
Comparison of rural sociology of Pakistan and France (Source: punjab.gov.pk)

Rural Punjab	Rural Ile-de-France	Implications	Visualization
1. Population Density Population with an average of 225 people per square kilometer.	Population density of 52 people per square kilometer.	These demographic differences impact social dynamics, resource allocation, priorities in the rural contexts.	
2. Age Distribution The population skews young, with over 60% under the age of 30.	More balanced, with around 40% under 30 and 20% over 60.	Almost same	
3. Family Structure Strong kinship ties and clan affiliations	Nuclear family households are more prevalent than traditional	Both settings value family as a central institution	
4. Technological Advancements Lack of knowledge and equipment	Methods for the developed industry	Change setups	
5. Education Literacy rates lag behind the national average, with only 59% of rural adults able to read and write.	Literacy is nearly universal, with over 99% of rural adults considered literate	The education gap contributing to disparities in economic and social development.	

	Rural Punjab	Rural Ile-de-France	Implications	Visualization
6.	Religion Islam is the predominant religion	Catholicism being the dominant faith as 29%, Otherwise secularism is mostly believed	Different religions	
7.	Employment Agriculture is the main occupation for villagers	Small-scale agriculture, viticulture, and artisanal production of goods like cheese and wine	Economy difference exists	
8.	Infrastructure Limited infrastructure and high poverty levels	Comprehensive public infrastructure systems	Huge difference	
9.	Gender Roles Traditional gender roles prevail	France has seen more egalitarian gender norms emerge	France has Gender Equality Index score above the EU average	
10.	Social Structure Social system heavily influenced by land ownership, tribal affiliations, and inherited caste systems	More fluid class structure, with a growing middle class of professionals and entrepreneurs	Different class systems	
11.	Culture Rich Culture as a blend of Central Asia, the Middle East, and North India	French culture is known for high fashion, fine cuisine, and love of the arts entertainment.	Pakistan and France have many cultural differences, including their history, religion, and traditions	
12.	Volunteer Programs Less monitoring and implementation of such programs	Many community betterment initiatives	Different efforts and methods	

Discussion

After these obstacles, there are also significant opportunities for rural development in the region. Investments in infrastructure, the diversification of agricultural practices, the promotion of gender equality, Integration of technology and the implementation of targeted social welfare programs could all contribute to the transformation of rural Punjab and the improvement of the lives of its residents (Mughal, [2018](#)). Tending to the absence of dependable power, clean water, and effective transportation networks is urgent for working on the expectations for everyday comforts and monetary possibilities of rustic networks. Handling the deeply entrenched social inequalities and caste-based separation in rustic Punjab is fundamental for making an all the more and evenhanded society. Putting resources into the training, financial open doors, and dynamic force of ladies in country Punjab can extraordinarily affect the general prosperity of these networks. Advancing the expansion of agrarian practices and the improvement of non-farm financial activities can assist with lessening the dependence on customary vocations and make new types of revenue for rural inhabitants (Altaf, [2024](#)).

Future Prospects and Opportunities for Rural Punjab

Following are the points obtained from study of Punjab Growth Strategy 2018:

- Integration of Technological Advancements will enhance agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities.
- Rural communities hold potential for small-scale entrepreneurship and artisanal ventures.
- Engagement in community-driven initiatives will foster empowerment and collective development.
- Innovative solutions will promote sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation efforts.
- Institutional and technological reforms will help in maintaining best environment for rural community. It requires relevant policies and reforms.
- Employment opportunities like Agro-based industry will reduce urban to rural migration (Hayat et al., [2023](#)).
- Introduction of Proper monitored programs will address the problems of public health and education for fast.
- There is a need to address the issues of inequality in terms of resources.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research paper will contribute to the existing literature on rural sociology in Punjab, Pakistan. Ultimately, this study aims to inform policies and interventions that can support the sustainable development of rural Punjab and improve the quality of life for its residents. The purpose of this study is to understand the process of rural transformation and the instruments available to policy makers to accelerate the country's economy. Thus, exploring rural sociology in Pakistan offers valuable insights into the social, cultural, and economic dynamics of rural communities within the country. By understanding the historical background, key concepts, and theories within rural sociology, we can grasp the complexities of rural society in Pakistan. The social structures and dynamics present in rural areas highlight the evolving nature of rural communities in the face of urbanization and modernization. Additionally, the economic aspects of rural life underscore the importance of promoting sustainable economic development and livelihood opportunities in rural Pakistan. Overall, studying rural sociology in Pakistan is essential for addressing the unique challenges and opportunities faced by rural populations and fostering inclusive and equitable development in the country.

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