

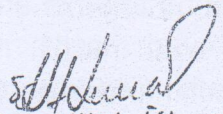
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No 2(1)/2017-PBS(C)
Government of Pakistan
Statistics Division
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Islamabad 4th July, 2017

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF PBS

Enclosed please find herewith minutes of 8th Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Governing Council of PBS held on 21st April, 2017 at 11:00 AM under the Chair of Dr. Zeba A. Sathar in the Conference Room of PBS for information and further necessary action.

2. This issues with the approval of Chief Statistician.


(Habib Ullah Khan)
Member (C&S)

Distribution:

All concerned

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Subject: MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

The 8th Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Governing Council of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was held on 21st April, 2017 at 11:00 am in the Conference Room of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics under the Chair of Dr. Zeba A. Sathar, Chairperson of the Sub-committee and Member of the Governing Council. The list of participants is enclosed. Since PBS was getting a de-briefing from the UNFPA international observers team on the Census-committee members also attended the end of the meeting.

The 8th meeting began after the UNFPA observers shared their report on the Census 2017.

1. The Chair referred to overarching goal for constitution of subcommittee was to ensure the best possible technical advice be given by the experts on the SC and that it be heard by PBS. She informed that she and Dr. Nizam have great reservations about implementation of various proposals of subcommittee for example mandatory recording of CNIC cards, verification of data from NADRA etc. She further informed that in last meeting there was extended discussion about REN forms which was completely omitted from the minutes. Dr. Mukhtar added that that his suggestion was to scan REN-2 forms which will be used for preliminary results and data entry should be done from scanned forms. He went on to claim that in this way results could be randomly verified in three hours. He further stressed that it was a simple suggestion that can be easily implemented.
2. He further claimed that PBS has been reluctant to adopt any of subcommittee's suggestions. Commenting further on REN form, he told that there should be bench marking of acceptable levels of sample errors i.e. what percentage of differences in reporting in the individual and REN forms will trigger PBS to take corrective measures. PBS should make and present the plan to the sub committee. Then referring to minutes of the last meeting he asked who will do the PES what is meant by independent authority. CS, appreciated his commitment and informed that minutes are always finalized by the Chairperson of the meeting, PBS had just issued draft minutes and sent them the previous night in a hard copy to the chair as finalized. It was clarified that minutes were send via email along with invitation for current meeting about 5 days earlier but the PBS issued hardcopies the night before the meeting..

3. The Chair again reiterated that it was important that our recommendation be taken seriously as most members feel that there is no use to holding further meetings. For instance, the committee had recommended in writing that NADRA's database should not be accessed at all to verify the information provided by the respondents. And yet it was being accessed quite regularly to share details to put into census forms. Further, she insisted that the decision about REN form to be scanned on computer and made transparent should be taken very seriously. It would bring transparency of results and this that is a question of grave reservation of provincial chief ministers and media and the suggestion was given after a lot of thinking. Dr. Mukhtar clarified that each image should be put corresponding to relevant PSU data entered. CS informed that suggestion of committee has been accepted already and PBS has made arrangements for scanning of these forms.

4. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal informed that members are here to resolve problems. Mr. Rizwan should have shared agenda earlier. Dr. Zeba Sathar, informed that she shared the agenda this morning as she had circulated an email to get suggestions about agenda points for the 8th meeting.

5. CS assured the participants of the meeting that the suggestions of the committee are being taken very seriously and actions are being taken. He informed that PBS was asked to revise instructions about reference period for the census 'usual residence' questions which was done as per the instructions of the subcommittee. The other suggestion was about not using verification of CNIC using NADRA system and this he reassured us was conveyed to the Finance Minister. Thus, PBS sent suggestion of subcommittee to FM and he partially agreed with the suggestion and now verification was being done in "suspect and doubtful cases only". This was out of PBS's control.

6. Dr. Mukhtar said the Chief Statistician is independent in decision making so why to refer these thing to FM. The Chair desired to see the letter sent to FM and his orders regarding SMS based verification, which was shown to her while she was leaving the meeting outside PBS. It was also informed that issue of verification started during the discussions in context of Afghans who are living in Pakistan without proper documentation.

7. Dr. Iqbal expressed that the PBS was more responsive to other advice such as disability questions were included on direction of Supreme Court while our advice and suggestions were not being heard. The CS disagreed. He said the ID card issue is resolved, and CNIC verification was sent to FM for the final decision.

8. The CS informed that PBS has discussed the REN scanning proposal internally and he has passed on instructions to DP centre to scan all the forms. PBS has not received all the forms as yet. Dr. Mukhtar hailed this decision. He again explained why scanning is important. For example, if one needs to know the information in respect of a cluster then he/she can just search it on the data base

system. The chair requested Dr. Mukhtar to provide suggestion in writing to PBS which was provided just then.

9. Dr. Farooq Naseer then discussed the experience of Census team work in LUMS and shared his reservations on request of CS. He informed that there are 70 odd families living on campus. In addition they have hostels where students and the security staff etc. live. Therefore, in total, 3500 persons are living in LUMS campus. Last week, it was observed that nobody came for census, PBS was informed through helpline. Enumeration period was about to finish so multiple teams were sent. Dr. Farooq also admitted there could be role of administration of LUMS which asked PBS to provide a table to share with them data of LUMS population. He believed that confidentiality was also comprised and enumeration appeared to be optional. PBS team visited his house on request. The census teams are supposed to visit all individual households. There is another issue, information of students should be obtained directly but how it is done is not clear in manual. However, PBS is getting information from wardens. How will you then maintain confidentiality?. It was clarified that teams go to door to door in case of individual residence and not in case of collective residence.

10. Dr. Mukhtar, argued that it is fault on LUMS administration which did not cooperate with PBS. It seems LUMS has interfered in Government work. CS informed that we faced similar problems especially in affluent areas. CS then informed that at gate PBS affixed the number and administration told them that it is a collective place of residence and will provide data accordingly to PBS.

11. Dr. Asad Zaman recorded his appreciation to Mr. Bajwa for his patience and excellent work. He pointed out that there are unjustified complaints about the intentions of PBS. We are advisory body and we have no authority to make orders. Many of suggestions have been adopted by PBS. He congratulated PBS that observers have passed the census operation based on their observations. It is exceptional work PBS is doing. The issue of students and hostels that Dr. Farooq has pointed are only 0.001% of total population.

12. Dr. Qamar Zaman hailed that International observers have presented a positive report on the Census operations. However, we need to take corrective measures. There was double counting, some urban areas were counted in rural areas. Is there anything we want to differently in phase 2? We should make sure that maps have been handed over to field and if some enumerators have not kept maps in bags after listing then it should not be generalized.

13. Dr. Shujaat added that observers have shown satisfaction over PBS Census operation and committee has also endorsed it.

14. Dr. Zeba Sathar talked about suggestions for the next phase to improve operations further. First was issue of maps and the need for PBS to re-inform the supervisors of their importance. The second glaring fact is the paucity of female

interviewers which was adversely affecting reporting of females and by females. PBS should make a special effort to add female interviewers who should be encouraged and quickly trained to participate in this phase. Third one is confidentially issue of sharing CNIC cards and information which needs to be addressed. For the next phase we recommend that data should not be collected from respondents and enumerators trained for accuracy of age and not rely on other sources. Above all PBS should minimize data verification with outside sources.

15. Dr. Qamar Zaman and Dr. Iqbal informed that hostel enumeration could be problematic in KPK as well. In some Universities there are students who are in thousands. How will PBS make sure that they all are enumerated? PBS will approach wardens and ask them to provide information. He feared that it will be difficult task for wardens. Dr. Farooq added that PBS is responsible for ensuring data accuracy. However, it was suggested by worthy member that at time of listing PBS may brief wardens about information needed in follow up process.

16. Dr. Nizam who joined meeting through skype also endorsed good work of PBS.

17. Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair. *(Note: Follow up actions shared by the chair in form of email are Annexed-1)*
