Youth Bulge in Pakistan: Dividend or Chaos?

Asad Sayeed

Collective for Social Science
Research, Karachi

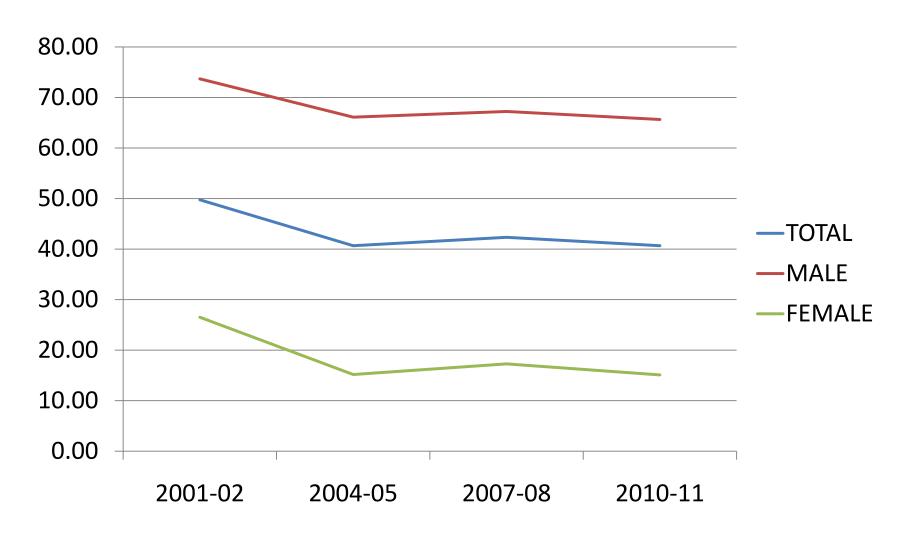
Introduction

- Like the rest of South Asia, Pakistan is also on the Youth Bulge end of the Demographic Transition
- We know if all pieces of the puzzle fall in Place, it can be Growth and Income Enhancing
- Where Does Pakistan Stand in Reaping that Dividend?

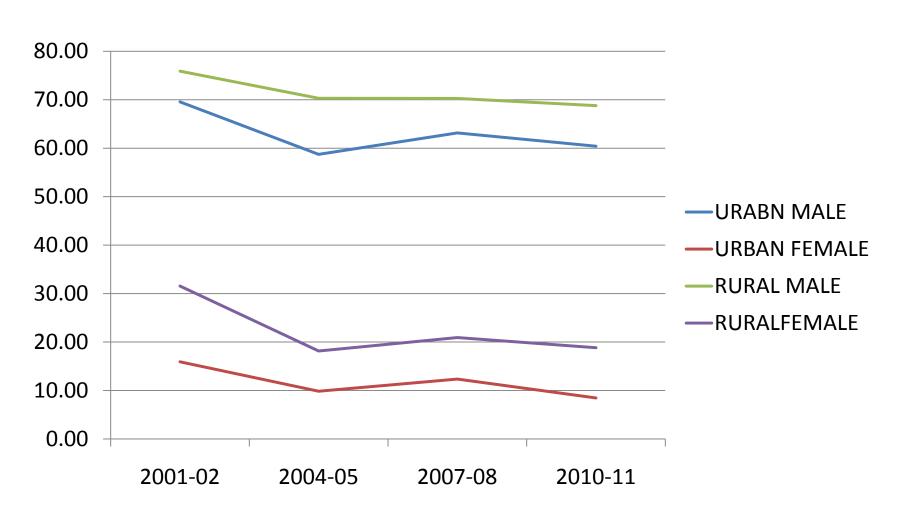
What to Look For?

- Labour Force Characteristics Across Gender, Rural-Urban Differentials, Nature of Employment and Across Sectors
- Human Capital Formation Trends
- Investment Trends
- Social and Economic Policies Needed

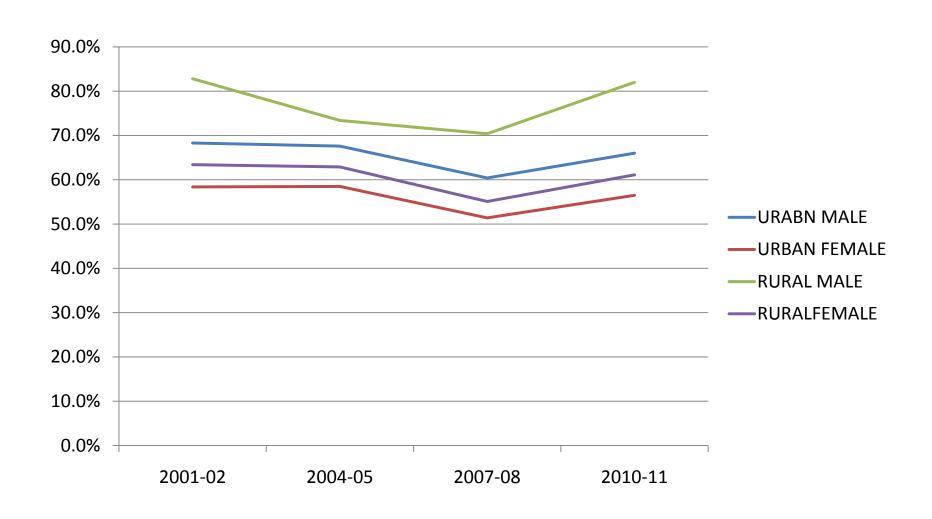
Labour Force Participation Rate(15-29)



Labour Force Participation Urban Rural and by Gender(15-29)



Employed Labour Force(15-29)



Sectoral Employment Patterns

- Two Thirds of Employment in Urban Areas across gender is in Services, incrementally increasing
- For Males Share in Manufacturing is Declining and Lower than that of 29+ Cohort
- Female Share in Manufacturing has increased and then Tapered off
- Rural: Three Fourths in Agriculture; Increased Lately

Employment Status

- Urban Males: 2/3rds are paid employees.
- However, self employment hovers around 15% and around 1/6th are still unpaid family workers
- Rural Females: Declining Trend of Unpaid Family Work and corresponding increase in paid employment.

Human Capital: Literacy Rates

| | 2001-02 | | 2004-05 | | 2007-08 | | 2010-11 | |
|------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | 15-29 | 29+ | 15-29 | 29+ | 15-29 | 29+ | 15-29 | 29+ |
| Urban Male | 80.6% | 67.1% | 85.7% | 72.0% | 86.3% | 85.5% | 85.3% | 74.8% |
| Urban | 72.2% | 40.8% | 77.2% | 44.6% | 78.9% | 74.1% | 80.0% | 50.7% |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| Rural Male | 66.0% | 40.0% | 71.0% | 43.5% | 74.5% | 72.5% | 73.7% | 49.3% |
| Rural | 32.0% | 8.9% | 39.1% | 12.0% | 50.6% | 40.5% | 47.5% | 15.7% |
| Female | | | | | | | | |

Years of Schooling: Urban

| | 2001-02 | | 2004-5 | | | | 2010-11 | | |
|---------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--|-----|---------|-------|--|
| | 15-29 | 29+ | 15-29 | 29+ | | 15- | -29 | 29+ | |
| | | Urban | | | | | | | |
| PRIMARY | 27.1% | 24.8% | 19.6% | 21.5% | | | 16.4% | 17.5% | |
| MIDDLE | 27.7% | 19.8% | 26.8% | 17.2% | | | 25.7% | 17.9% | |
| MATRIC | 23.4% | 24.0% | 28.8% | 26.0% | | | 29.0% | 27.5% | |
| 10+ | 21.7% | 31.4% | 24.8% | 35.3% | | | 28.8% | 37.0% | |
| Urban Females | | | | | | | | | |
| PRIMARY | 25.1% | 36.2% | 17.4% | 30.5% | | | 15.2% | 24.5% | |
| MIDDLE | 20.6% | 16.8% | 20.5% | 19.2% | | | 20.9% | 19.2% | |
| MATRIC | 27.7% | 22.1% | 32.7% | 24.9% | | | 31.1% | 27.7% | |
| 10+ | 26.7% | 25.0% | 29.4% | 25.5% | | | 32.9% | 28.6% | |

Years of Schooling: Rural

| | 2001-02 | | 2004-5 | | | | 201 | 2010-11 | | |
|--------------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--|--|-------|---------|--|--|
| | 15-29 | 29+ | 15-29 | 29+ | | | 15-29 | 29+ | | |
| Rural male | | | | | | | | | | |
| PRIMARY | 39.4% | 47.3% | 31.5% | 40.6% | | | 28.9% | 35.5% | | |
| MIDDLE | 26.1% | 21.6% | 31.9% | 22.2% | | | 32.8% | 23.5% | | |
| MATRIC | 22.0% | 17.2% | 24.5% | 21.4% | | | 25.0% | 24.3% | | |
| 10+ | 12.5% | 13.9% | 12.2% | 15.8% | | | 13.3% | 16.7% | | |
| Rural Female | | | | | | | | | | |
| PRIMARY | 56.3% | 61.6% | 43.7% | 61.0% | | | 38.5% | 55.2% | | |
| MIDDLE | 19.7% | 16.1% | 25.4% | 14.7% | | | 25.7% | 18.1% | | |
| MATRIC | 16.2% | 16.5% | 21.2% | 15.6% | | | 21.6% | 16.0% | | |
| 10+ | 7.7% | 5.8% | 9.7% | 8.7% | | | 14.2% | 10.7% | | |

Emerging Patterns

- Gender Differentials are Pronounced in terms of Human Capital, LFPR, Unemployment and Employment Status
- Urban-Rural Differences are Also Stark...increasing rural to Urban Migration Expected
- Incremental Employment Generation in the Service Sector – Importance of Human Capital
- Low Probability of Manufacturing Revival

Policy Areas

- Gender Gap has Three Prongs: Human Capital, Fertility Rates, Societal Attitudes
- Low Level of Public Spending on Education
- Aggregate Investment is Precariously Low; Especially in the Context of Increasing Urbanization and below par social sector indicators

Policy Areas to Focus

- Social Protection; Improvement in Human Capital Indicators
- Vocational Training?
- Regional Trade