Investigation of Ethnic Diversity In Pakistan: A Case Study of Karachi

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Abstract: In developing countries increasing population and lack of good governance are the major issues and Pakistan is no exception. These issues are highlighted most in the context of urban centers. Karachi is the most populous city of Pakistan and currently ranked 6th among the mega cities of the world. After partition this city has grown up rapidly due to influx of both national and international immigrants. Urdu speaking persons are the largest ethnic group in Karachi and Pashtuns are second largest group who came to Karachi. It can't be wrong to say that there are even more Pashtuns in Karachi than in Peshawar itself. Almost 50% of the total population is Urdu speaking whereas 25% of total population is Pashtun in Karachi, whereas, 14% are from Punjab and remaining 9% speaking other languages are settled here. Similarly there are areas in the city marked for Christians, Hindus, Parsis etc. Census Data for the years 1951, 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998 are taken to analyze the variability of Religion, Population and Language (language data is not available for 1972 census). Spatial development of Slums / Katchi-Abadi 1988 and projection for 2000 has also been discussed. The change in population for the years 1981 and 1988 has been mapped using GIS. MP & ECD Analysis Zones have been used and according to the findings during the years 1986-2000 population increase percent is higher in Surjani Town and Taisar Town. It is also concluded that 96% population living in the city are Muslims and speak more than 9 different languages.

Keywords: Karachi, Population, GIS, Language, Religion.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is one of the notable urbanized countries in the world especially in South Asia. Although the official figures rather undercount the level of urbanization in the country, the current segment of urban population is estimated around 40 percent of the total population. Pakistan has one of the highest rates of urbanization with a projected population of 335 million by 2050, and an annual urbanization rate of 3.06% [1].

In Sindh and Punjab provinces almost half the population has already urbanized, while in the Khyber Pakhtunkha (KPK) and Baluchistan province the level is significantly lower i.e.,16.87% and 23.89%, respectively [2], but catching up. In 2005, more than half of the total urban population of the country lived in eight urban units: Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Hyderabad, Gujranwala, and Peshawar [3]. It is not only the cities and town which are expanding continuously and speedily, our rural settlements are also growing in size. Most of the discussion on Pakistan's urbanization is based on population size [4-6].

The spatial characteristics of population are discussed a little because of the general lack of appropriate data - and enthusiasm of analysts to do so.

Intra city population distribution in Pakistan has attracted researchers for a long period. Karachi is the largest urban population agglomeration and the biggest industrial-cum-commercial centre of Pakistan [7]. From a medium-size city in 1947, it has grown into a mega city with an estimated population of around 16 million.

Karachi has a short recorded history of about hundred years from a tiny fishing village to a British military settlement and later as an important commercial and shopping city. According to United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Karachi ranked 19th in 2000 and will be on 12th in 2030 in the 30 largest Urban Agglomerations ranked by Population size at each point in time, 1950-2035 [8]. Karachi is situated in the South of Pakistan along the coast of Arabian Sea and covers an area of 3, 530 sq. Km (KCCI) with approx. 1330 sq.km is built-up area [9]. Main divisions are divided into six districts with further division into towns and cantonments.

After independence the city has grown and expanded due to both internal and international migrations. International migration formed a major component of growth; likewise the former i.e. internal migration continues unabated and is the major contributor to Karachi's growth. During this period, immigrants have come from different parts of Pakistan [10], transforming city in to mega city and a huge complex of several well-defined ethnic groups with its distinctive cultural attributes, chief of which is language.

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Thus, one finds well-defined residential areas set apart on the basis of language, such as Urdu speaking areas, Pashtu speaking areas, Sindhi and Balochi speaking areas etc.

Likewise, the mega city also has separated residential areas based on religion, such as Parsi Colony, Christian neighborhoods etc. Then, a very important aspect of population distribution in Karachi is the growth of residential areas based on income: low-income, middle-income and high income residential areas.

Like other metropolitan centers, its population resides in physical structures which vary in number of floors, from simple story to multistory buildings. For half a century the city continued to expand horizontally due to mainly the absence of a city plan. It is only since the last decade of the 20th century that the builders and developers have perforce turned their attention to multi-story structures. Various authors [11-13] used Geographic information systems (GIS) for the analysis of urban investigation and population growth analysis and in this paper it is attempted to use GIS for population analysis too.

Study Area

The area selected for this study is Karachi having Latitude and longitude coordinates of 24°54'20.16"N, 67°4'55.92"E shown in Figure **1**. It is the largest city of Pakistan and possesses one of the key ports of Arabian Sea. It is the largest urban population agglomeration and the biggest industrial-cum-commercial centre of Pakistan.

Data Collection and Methodology

In Pakistan finding relevant and authentic data is a massive problem. This study relies on census reports for the years of 1951, 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998. The data extracted was based on religion, population and language and used both modern and traditional techniques to present our data. Spatial development of Slims/Kachi Abadi and predicted population data is collected from available secondary data sources.

In this study, quantitative analysis techniques are used to evaluate various features of ethnicity which are portrayed for Pakistan with case study of Karachi. GIS techniques are used to back with technological support that shows statistical analysis and visual representation of religion, language and population datasets. Arc View (GIS software) has been used that enabled assigning different colors for desired information of population density to produce maps of the study area. MS Excel is used to make graphs for population, languages and religion using different data analysis techniques.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to analyze and map the current growth of population of Karachi, along with mapping the distribution of different languages and
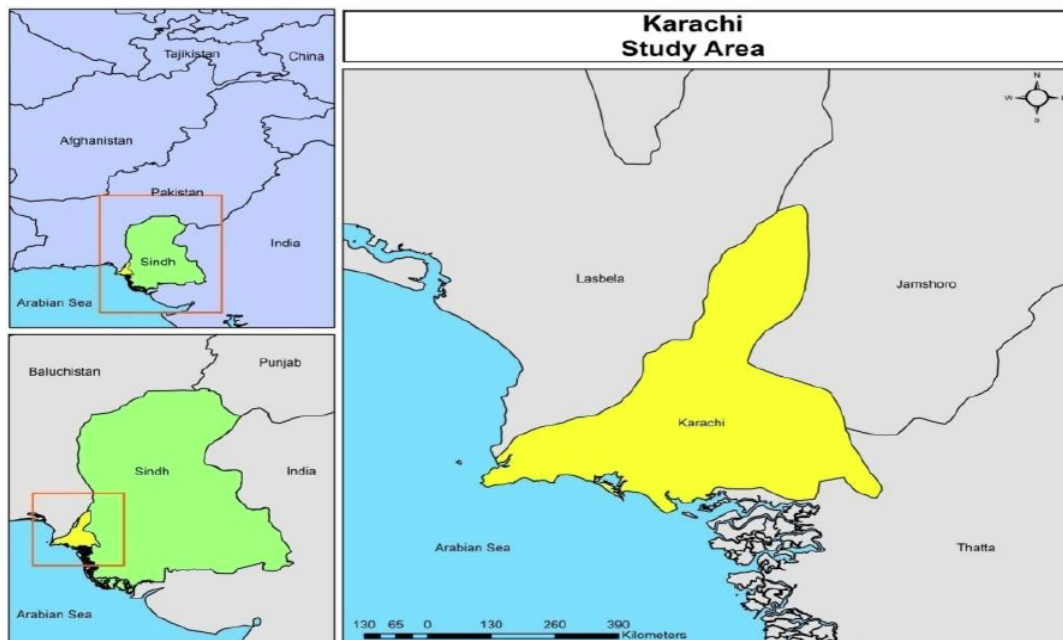

Figure 1: Map of Study Area.

religions of people living in Karachi. Also discuss and give recommendations about Slums/Kachi Abadis residing in Karachi.

RESULTS

Population

The population of Karachi increased manifold after independence. It was estimated around 600,000 people migrated from India to Karachi, migration changes city's perspectives ethnically, culturally, socially and economically. Census in 1961 revealed that in ten years more than 79% is the population growth rate of Karachi, with the annual growth rate of 6.05% per year Majority were migrant from the different parts of India, as well as family growth and internal migration from the different cities to Karachi are also included in growth rate. These migrants settled in squatter settlements on the city's periphery and within the city itself occupying open areas. Federal Government offices and foreign embassies were also established in that era, making the city a dense, multi-cultural, multi-linguistic and multi-religious city.

In this decade, army took over in 1958 and decided to shift the capital from Karachi to Islamabad, it was also decided to shift the refugees to two of the townships, for that they established Landhi, Korangi and New Karachi. Major Urdu speaking communities are resident of these areas. The Censes in 1972 concludes that, population increased 76.5% with 5% average annual growth. Two townships, Landhi and Korangi are about 20 km away from the center of city or business hub that created the transportation issues in Karachi, this problem is increasing day by day. 1981 censes tells that, during these years population increased with the growth rate of 4.96% per year. Karachi Master plan 1974-85 was prepared but not implemented, there were so many reasons including military take over and political conflict in this era. 5th censes took place after the gap of seventeen years, total 86.29% increase is observed, with total 3.52% average annual growth rate. Karachi master plan initiated but not implemented. Census data are shown in Figure 2 which clearly shows that population density of the region is increasing around main commercial areas i.e. from West to East Karachi; Mega city's 2018 population is now estimated at 18,160,000.

In 1950, the population was 1,055,000, which has grown by 1,542,000 since 2015, which represents a 3.00% annual change. These population estimates and projections come from the latest revision of the

Population Density in 1981 and 1988

N

0-981000
981000 - 2278000
2278000 - 2746000

0 5 10   20   30   40
Kilometers
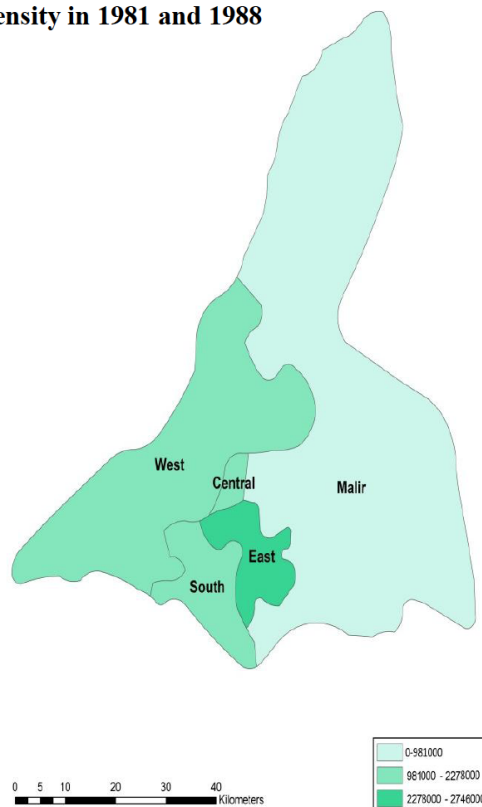
Figure 2: Population Map; Data taken from Census and Mapped by Authors.

Table 1:   Population Growth Analysis
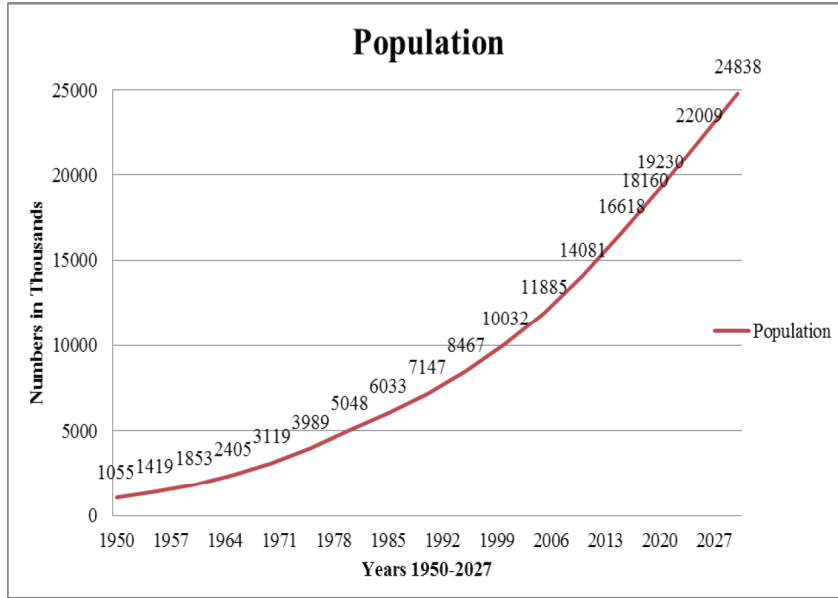
Compiled by Authors. Source:[14]

available data [14]. These estimates represent the urban agglomeration of Karachi, which typically includes Karachi's population in addition to adjacent suburban areas. It is predicted that in 2027 population of Karachi will be 24,83,8000 approximately. This datasets are shown in Table **1**.

MP & ECD analysis zones identify 58 main regions of Karachi and makes it very easy to calculate population [15]. In Figure **3**, It is shown that from 1986-2000 there are many regions comes under the value of least population percentage but the most populated areas are Surjani Town and Taisar Town.
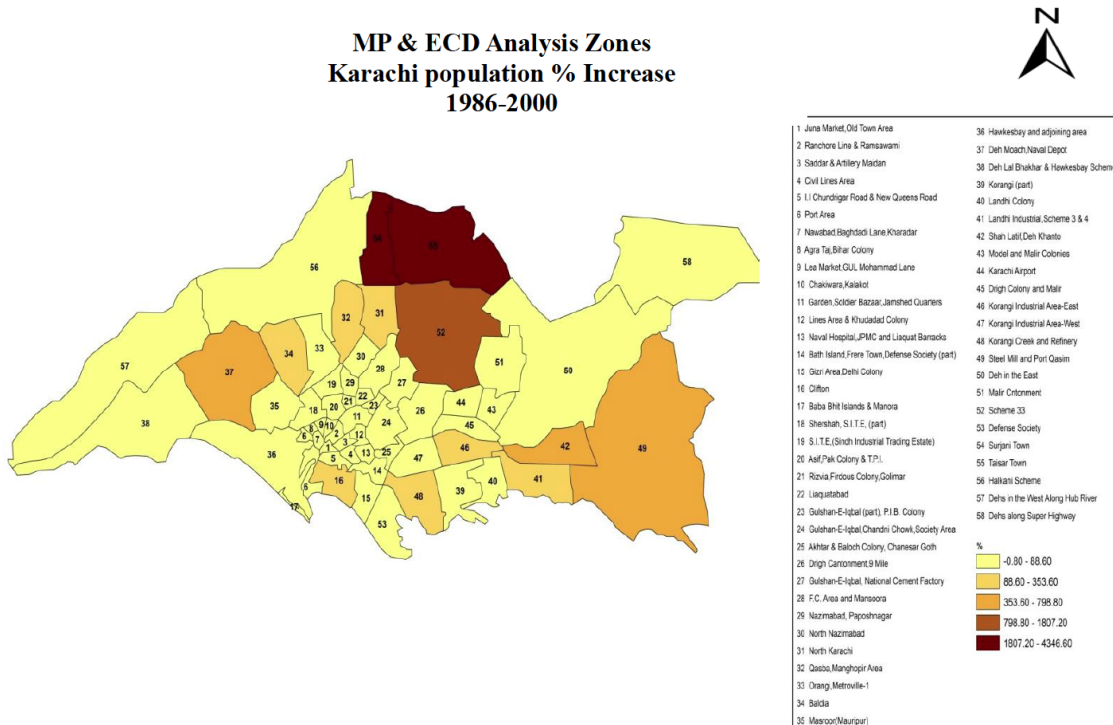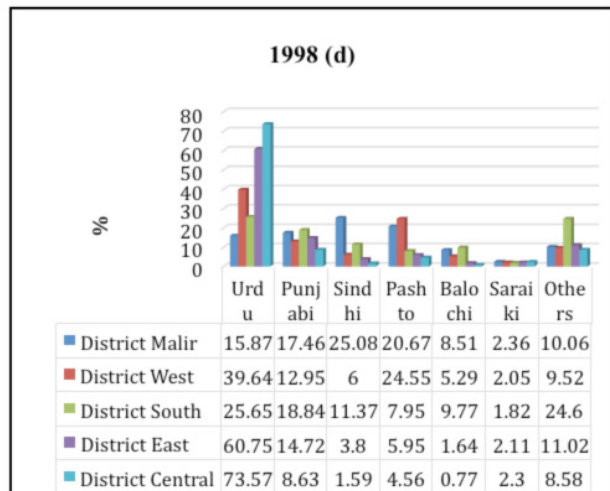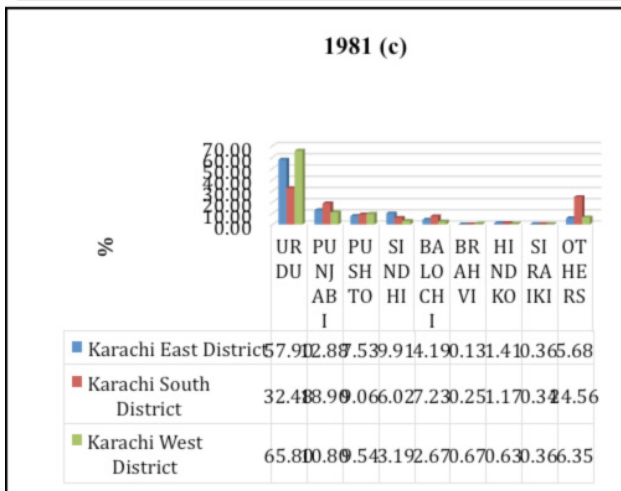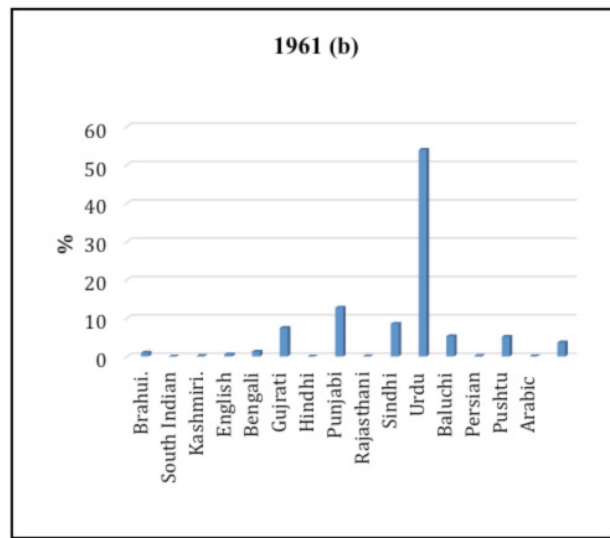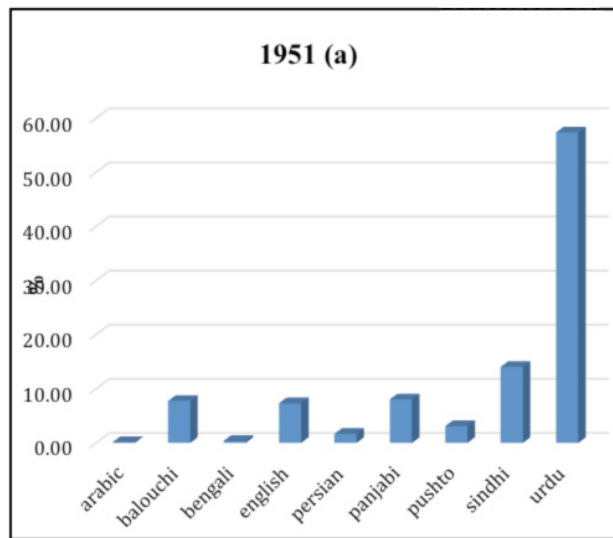

Figure 3: Population Analysis; Source: Karachi Development Plan 2000 [15].

Table 2:   Languages in Karachi, Compiled by Authors. Source: [16-20]

Languages in Karachi (1951-1998)

1951 (a)

1961 (b)

1981 (c)

	UR DU	PU NJ AB I	PU SH TO	SI ND HI	BA LO CH I	BR AH VI	HI ND KO	SI RA IKI	OT HE RS
Karachi East District	57.91	12.88	7.53	9.91	4.19	0.13	1.41	0.36	5.68
Karachi South District	32.48	18.99	0.06	6.02	7.23	0.25	1.17	0.34	24.56
Karachi West District	65.81	10.80	9.54	3.19	2.67	0.67	0.63	0.36	6.35

1998 (d)

|	Urdu	Punjabi	Sindhi	Pashto	Balochi	Saraiki	Others
District Malir	15.87	17.46	25.08	20.67	8.51	2.36	10.06
District West	39.64	12.95	6	24.55	5.29	2.05	9.52
District South	25.65	18.84	11.37	7.95	9.77	1.82	24.6
District East	60.75	14.72	3.8	5.95	1.64	2.11	11.02
District Central	73.57	8.63	1.59	4.56	0.77	2.3	8.58

Language

Language plays a vital role in growth of country. Within countries, diversity of languages is a common thing, but Karachi being a city is also a linguistically diverse city. People of Karachi speak many languages and also they show very interesting trend about their interest in a certain language. In one of the website it is said that Karachi has more Pashtu speakers than Peshawar itself, which our trend of increasing Pashtu speakers is also showing Table **2** based strictly on census data.

According to census data [16, 17, 19-21], in 1951 people of Karachi speak 9 major languages and 0.18% of total population were speaking Arabic at that time,

7.78% Balochi, 0.38% Bengali, 7.35% English, 1.69% Persian, 8.07% Punjabi, 3.12% Pushto, 14.07% Sindhi and 57.37% persons considered themselves Urdu speaking persons as shown in Table **2a**. According to 1961 census data, people of Karachi speaks 9 major languages and 0.06% of total population were speaking Arabic at that time, 5.28% Balochi, 1.27% Bengali, 0.57% English, 7.46% Gujrati, 12.76% Punjabi, 5.16% Pashto, 8.55% Sindhi and 53.37% Urdu as shown in Table **2b**. According to 1881 census data, Karachi was divided into three districts but Karachi divisional percentage of languages are 4.39% Balochi, 13.64% Punjabi, 8.27% Pashtu, 6.3% Sindhi and 54.34% Urdu and 12% of the population is speaking other languages as shown in Table **2c**. For 1998 census data, district wise distribution of languages is shown in Table **2d**.
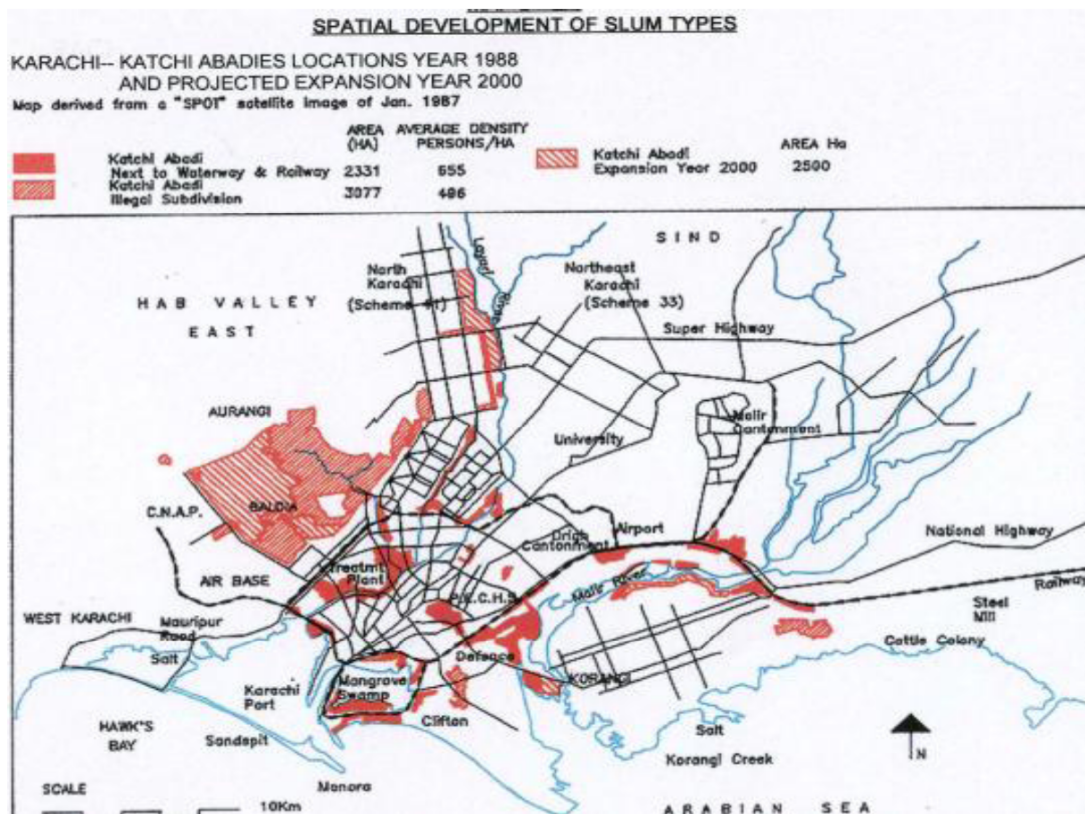
Figure 4: Spatial Development of Slum Types of Karachi; Source [2].

Kachi Abadis/Slum Areas

Karachi is an interesting city to study for every aspect of ethnicity. In 1947, there were no slums in Karachi. After partition, According to Hasan and Mohib [2], from 1947-1952, refuges invaded over here, were offered state lands, parks and open spaces to show them gratitude and official acceptance, government of Pakistan provided them water, settlements and bamboo for making shelters etc. During 1952-onwards, these refugees were shifted from parks to fringe areas of the city. The military government decided to demolish Kachi Abadis during the era of 1958-68, Informal subdivisions of state land (ISD)s shifted these Kachi Abadis 20km away from city centre and also made a connecting road for them, although there were many difficulties and hurdles in this task but during 1968-1978, proper rights and respect was given to Kachi Abadis. In 1978, Kachi Abadi Act was passed which ensures improves living standards of the persons and promise of giving them identity and basic rights. After 1972, electricity, water and other basic necessities were given. So this can be noticed that after the passage of time servicing and housing are gradually improving as shown in Figure **4**.
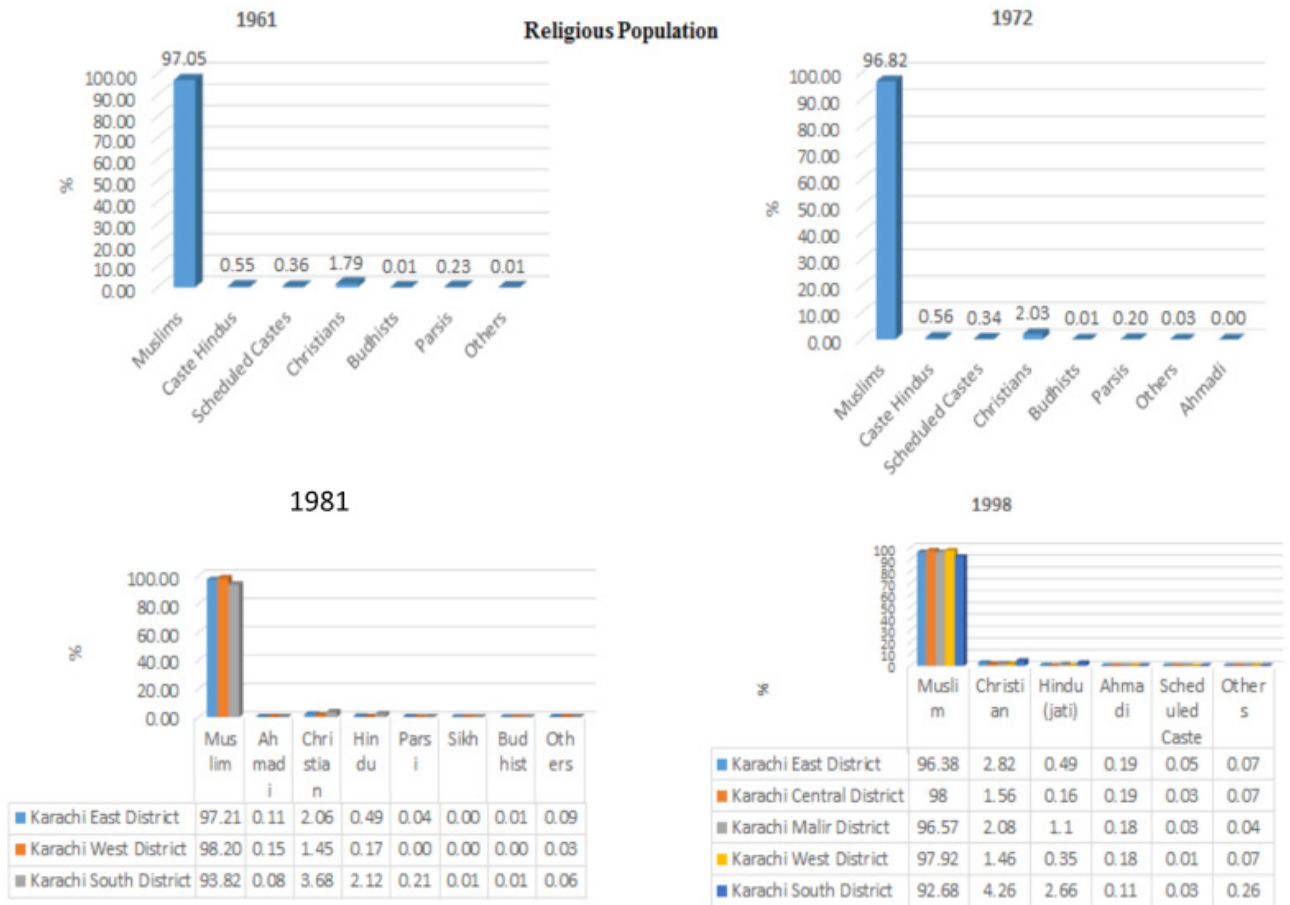
Religion Distribution

Variation of religions within any society makes it diverse and beautiful. Pakistan is very generous in celebrating festivals of every religion. For the years 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998 [17-21], according to the census data approximately 96% of population in Karachi is Muslims. Whereas Christians are around 1.8%, Caste Hindus 0.5% and Parsis 0.2%. The percentage of remaining minorities is quite negligible that is less than 0.2% as shown in Table **3**. In Karachi we find well- defined residential areas based on language and religion such as Banaras Town is for Pashtoo speakings & Parsi Colony, Defence is an area occupied by Parsi population.

CONCLUSION

There is an urgent need of accurate and up to date population data for accurate analysis and research on Karachi specifically. Available data of latest census 1998 has been taken and analyzed which clearly showed that population is increasing at the rate of 3.00% annually and there is a need of improved urban planning and infrastructural development. For 1972 census query about language was not been asked. It

Table 3:   Religious Population in Karachi Districts. Source: Census Reports

Religious Population

1961

1972

1981

	Muslim	Ahmadi	Christian	Hindu	Parsi	Sikh	Budhist	Others
Karachi East District	97.21	0.11	2.06	0.49	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.09
Karachi West District	98.20	0.15	1.45	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Karachi South District	93.82	0.08	3.68	2.12	0.21	0.01	0.01	0.06

1998

	Muslim	Christian	Hindu (jati)	Ahmadi	Scheduled Caste	Others
Karachi East District	96.38	2.82	0.49	0.19	0.05	0.07
Karachi Central District	98	1.56	0.16	0.19	0.03	0.07
Karachi Malir District	96.57	2.08	1.1	0.18	0.03	0.04
Karachi West District	97.92	1.46	0.35	0.18	0.01	0.07
Karachi South District	92.68	4.26	2.66	0.11	0.03	0.26

suggests that a set of standard questions must decide for the next censuses to be carried out, so that a sequence in the analysis in future can be maintained. Karachi showed a very diverse behavior related to variety of languages being spoken and religions and it can be a very positive thing if we take it as an opportunity to show the world our true colors.

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