

ADVANCE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVE JOURNAL

Available Online: <https://assajournal.com>

Vol. 04 No. 01. July-September 2025. Page#.4736-4750

Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)

Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)



Information Technology Epoch: Physical and Institutional Challenges to Female Gender in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Professor Dr. Mmoon Khan Khattak

Department of Social Work, Kohat University of Science & Technology (KUST), Kohat.

Email: mamoonkk@gmail.com

Mr. Tehzeeb Ali

MPhil Scholar, Department of Social Work, Kohat University of Science & Technology (KUST), Kohat.

Corresponding Author Email: tehzeeb725@gmail.com

Dr. Zubaida Khatoon Khattak

Associate Professor, Government Girls Degree College No. 2, Sheikh Maltoon Town, Mardan.

Email: zubaidakk@yahoo.com

Mr. Amin Khan Khattak

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Peshawar, Peshawar.

Email: akk1990@gmail.com

Abstract

Allah Almighty has blessed every human being with a distinctive personality that is known through one's identity. In modern day world, such identities are universally digitized through information technology, through registering and recording, through nationwide connected data basis. In the Information Technology Epoch, speed is the defining metric, acting as the new scale for competitive advantage, enabling real-time data processing, innovation, and digital transformation. Due to this phenomenon, ideally, as per need of time, it is necessary that a person records and registers oneself at these authorized digital offices serving as registration centers. However, here at the study region, due to a number of factors, the ratio of female gender's registration is lower creating identity issues for them. Therefore, the main objective of the study has been to analyze the physical, and institutional challenges with respect to female

gender, in relation with civil registration and vital statistics in District Orakzai. The study adopted a quantitative research design relying on primary data collected through a structured questionnaire administered to respondents ranging their ages from 18 years to 49 years at village council offices. Primary data was analyzed using Likert scale (developed in 1932 by Rensis Likert) to identify respondents' views and experiences. The findings revealed that the females' registration was significantly influenced due to physical, and institutional factors in the study region. It is recommended that physical and institutional challenges to females in civil registration and vital statistics be mitigated for improving females' registration participation.

Key Words: Civil registration, gender, female(s), information technology, vital statistics, institutional challenges.

1. Introduction

The human identity is a very significant phenomenon. In Islam, in Holy Quranic teachings – in Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13) it is revealed by Allah Almighty that "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another...". So it is the human's identity, bestowed to us by Allah Almighty which enable us to establish and develop mutual relationships. Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13) emphasizes human equality, stating that Allah created humanity from a single pair of man and woman and divided them into nations and tribes to foster mutual knowledge and cooperation, not discrimination. The ultimate measure of honor in God's sight is righteousness (taqwa), not race or status. This verse highlights that human diversity in race and tribe is for mutual recognition, not for superiority, with righteousness (taqwa) being the true measure of worth.

While in another Quranic verse in Surah Al-Anbiya (21: 107), with respect to identity and personality of Holy and Last Prophet of God – The Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, there is title for Him of "Rahmatul-lil-Alameen" which mean the "Mercy to the Worlds"; this title signifies His role as a universal blessing, peace, and compassion for all creation, including humanity, animals, and the environment. He brought justice, abolished inhumane practices, and demonstrated kindness to all living beings.

The human's identity is as important today as it was thousands years ago. In the Information Technology Epoch, speed is the defining metric, acting as the new scale for competitive advantage, innovation, and digital transformation. Driven by Moore's Law, technological advancement is accelerating exponentially, enabling real-time data processing, faster development cycles, processing speeds, time-to-value acceleration, operational velocity, instant global communication, allowing for more complex rapid analysis, and rapid automated decision-making etc. While, the technological innovation moves at a rapid pace, it also brings complexity and requires new management techniques to handle the velocity.

While, in this Information Technology Epoch (year 2025), there are a number of global societal segments that are lagging behind and are not at the par with technological modernism, one of such segments is the civil registration through which one gains identity, especially in developing countries. Civil registration of vital events which includes births, marriages, divorces, and deaths do forms the backbone of an effective Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system and is essential for ensuring legal identity, citizenship rights, access to public services, and evidence-based governance. In Pakistan, although legal frameworks for civil registration exist, significant gender disparities persist, particularly in remote and socioculturally traditional regions. Due to such like reasons, females disproportionately lag behind in registration processes, limiting their identity, educational access, health services, inheritance rights, social welfare, social protection programs, and political participation etc.

While limited studies have evaluated administrative and institutional gaps in Pakistan's CRVS system, specifically affecting women and their identities. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the physical, and institutional challenges with respect to female gender, in relation with civil registration and vital statistics in District Orakzai. Finally, based on the study, feasible recommendations are made to enhance women's access and participation to civil registration services.

2. Literature Review

In ancient civilizations, the roots of civil registration can be traced back. In Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, governments maintained some form of records for births and deaths, primarily for taxation and military conscription purposes (Setel et al., 2007). Hence, during the **medieval period**, particularly in Europe, the responsibility for vital event recording shifted to religious institutions. The Catholic Church, for example, kept baptismal, marriage, and burial records, primarily for ecclesiastical and doctrinal purposes (Breckenridge & Szreter, 2012). In modern information technology era, significant technological advancements are made in civil registration system. Many states transitioned from paper-based systems to electronic vital records, improving data accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, and universality.

United Nations defines "Civil registration is the official recording of a birth, death, or marriage by a government. It is a fundamental way of securing somebody's legal identity and of producing vital statistics" (UNICEF, 2019). "Civil registration is the official recording of vital life events such as births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, which ensures legal identity and is essential for social and economic rights" (ILO, 2019). "Civil registration is the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through

decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of a country” (United Nations, 2014). “A civil registration system is defined as the total process of continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events (live births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages and divorces) and other civil status events pertaining to the population” (World Health Organization, 2012). “Civil registration is the recording of vital events in a person’s life (including birth, marriage, divorce, and death), as well as the issuance of certificates confirming the occurrence of those events” (World Bank, 2018a). Civil registration performs three essential functions: it has a legal and administrative role by recording vital events, maintaining official records that establish civil status, and issuing certificates as legal proof of that status; it serves a statistical function by collecting data on vital events to form the basis of the country's vital statistics; and it contributes to identity management by providing accurate and continuous information to identity management systems or population registers (United Nations, 2019).

UNICEF (2019) states that the civil registration, means to the continuous, permanent, and universal recording of vital events such as births, marriages, and deaths, is essential for ensuring individual rights and enabling state planning and governance. However, in many parts of the world particularly in developing countries like Pakistan, significant segments of the population remain outside civil registration systems, with women and girls being disproportionately affected. UNDP (2020) states that nonexistence of civil registration denies women a legal identity and restricts their access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, inheritance, and political participation. This issue also connects with broader global development goals. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16.9 intends to provide legal identity for all, comprising birth registration, by 2030. Failure to address the gendered barriers to civil registration undermines this goal and compromises progress toward gender equality (SDG) and inclusive governance (UN, 2023).

Despite these developments, significant gender disparities persist. According to UNICEF (2021), women particularly those in rural and far flung areas face challenges in obtaining identity documents, registering births, or completing administrative procedures because sociocultural norms often restrict their mobility and autonomy. These norms often require women to be accompanied by male family members for official tasks, which delays or prevents registration. UN Women (2020) states that the implications of gender-based disparities in civil registration are severe. Without timely birth registration, girls may face obstacles in school enrollment, receiving healthcare, or obtaining national identity documents later in life. Women lacking CNICs, marriage certificates, or death certificates of spouses may be unable to access inheritance, government relief programs, property rights, or legal protections.

“Civil registration in Pakistan is defined as the state-sanctioned process of registering vital events such as births and deaths to produce legally valid documentation and generate data for health and demographic policy” (NIPS & ICF, 2013). “Civil registration in Pakistan is the process of registering vital events such as births, deaths, marriages, and divorces through local union councils and computerized national databases, primarily managed by NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority)” (Government of Pakistan, 2015). “Civil registration, through local government offices, documents of vital events in Pakistan do forms the basis for national vital statistics systems that guide planning and development programs” (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2016). Civil registration in Pakistan is managed by a combination of local government offices and NADRA, where registration of births and deaths is a legal obligation. However, the system faces challenges of accessibility, awareness, and coverage, especially in rural and underserved areas (World Bank, 2018a). “In Pakistan, civil registration involves official recording of vital events including births and deaths by local registration units under the coordination of provincial governments and NADRA. It is a cornerstone for legal identity and service provision” (UNESCAP, 2020). In Pakistan, civil registration means the legal recording of vital events including birth and death by a government authority, which provides individuals with proof of identity and helps generate population-level statistics for planning and governance” (UNICEF Pakistan, 2021).

In Pakistan, improvements have been made in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system through institutional reforms and the expansion of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). In Pakistan, despite constitutional provisions and administrative systems like the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), gender disparities in civil registration persist. According to Ahmed and Zahid (2021), female birth and marriage registrations lag significantly behind those of males, especially in rural, earnest merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and conflict-affected areas. In many cases, women experience difficulty to register themselves or their children without a male guardian, which entrenches gender inequality. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2022) states that this gender gap stems from a combination of sociocultural barriers, such as patriarchal family structures, gender-based mobility restrictions, low literacy levels, and limited awareness of legal rights.

Despite the legal mandate for universal civil registration in Pakistan, a significant portion of the female population remains unregistered or under-registered, particularly in rural, tribal, and underprivileged regions (UNICEF, 2019). This lack of registration, especially in relation to birth, marriage, and identity documentation (e.g. CNICs), contributes to the continued marginalization of women and restricts their access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, inheritance, property ownership, and participation in democratic processes (Ahmed & Zahid, 2021).

The creation of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in 2000 served as a major institutional shift. NADRA became responsible for issuing Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and maintaining a centralized population database. This move laid the groundwork for digitizing civil registration processes and improving coverage (NADRA, 2020). NADRA also collaborates with union councils to digitize birth and death registration, issuing Child Registration Certificates (CRC). Integration between local government offices and NADRA databases has improved, but coverage remains uneven across provinces and rural-urban divides (UNICEF, 2021).

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, civil registration process is comprised of the obligatory, regular, universal, and perpetual recording of vital events (births, deaths, marriages, and divorces). This process is managed by the Village and Neighborhood Councils under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act (2013). In many areas of Pakistan, particularly in province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, embedded patriarchal values and traditional gender norms hinder women's ability to independently access civil registration services (Siddiqui & Khan, 2019). Siddiqui and Khan (2019) states that the challenges are even more pronounced in former Tribal Areas, where social norms and administrative lapses have limited women's access to registration services. The lack of civil registration in such regions does render women legally less visible and economically dependent, hindering their participation in social, political, and economic life.

Physical and Institutional Challenges in Civil Registration

Numerous persons are unaware regarding benefits of civil registration, such as legal proof of age, school admission, health care, inheritance rights, protection from child labor and early marriage. Without community-level education campaigns, families remain indifferent to the importance of registering births or deaths (UNICEF, 2021). In Pakistan, every province follows its own local government laws post-18th Amendment, leading to inconsistencies in implementation (Shah, 2012). Religious registrars (e.g., Nikah registrars for marriages) operate semi-autonomously and often do not coordinate with civil authorities (Akram & Khan, 2007).

In many union councils, the primary civil registration units lack basic equipment (computers, electricity, internet), there is shortage of trained staff to operate information technology, digital systems, or to handle online documentations. In country's many far flung areas, families may need to travel hours or days to reach registration offices (NADRA, 2020). The absence of timely and complete civil registration data does undermine national planning, especially for public health surveillance, education and child protection, disaster response and humanitarian assistance. NADRA's central database does not yet fully integrate with Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), making it hard to verify or validate data through multiple sources (UNESCAP, 2019).

From an administrative perspective, registration systems are not always gender-sensitive. Offices may lack female staff, which deters women from visiting due to cultural sensitivities. Moreover, bureaucratic procedures are often complex, and documentation requirements (such as CNICs, marriage certificates, or proof of residence) may be difficult for women to fulfill, especially those displaced or from marginalized communities (UNESCAP, 2020). The women's mobility is further restricted by the physical distance to registration offices. Civil registration centers are located far from remote villages. For women in isolated or mountainous regions, traveling to these offices can be both physically exhausting and financially burdensome (World Bank, 2018b). Moreover, public transportation is either existent or not culturally appropriate for unaccompanied women, especially in areas where gender segregation is expected. Even where transport exists, safety concerns and harassment risks discourage women from using it (UN Women, 2020).

Pakistan has one of the lowest birth and death registration rates in South Asia. According to UNICEF (2021), only 42% of children under five are registered at birth, which means that millions of Pakistani children lack legal identity, which limits their access to education, healthcare, and social protection (UNICEF, 2021). Death registration rates are even lower, with significant underreporting due to cultural norms, logistical barriers, and lack of awareness (UNESCAP, 2019). Coverage is especially poor in rural areas, where administrative infrastructure is weak and families may be unaware of registration requirements (NADRA, 2020). Even, many registrations occur months or years after the event, especially for births. This leads to false documentation, for example, falsified dates of birth for school entry or marriage eligibility. Late registration also undermines international obligations such as SDG 16.9 on providing legal identity for all (United Nations, 2015).

3. Research Methodology

This research followed the empirical approach to study the phenomenon. It designed to quantitatively analyze the study problem.

Study Objective

The main objective of the study has been to analyze the physical, and institutional challenges with respect to female gender, in relation with civil registration and vital statistics in District Orakzai.

Population and Sampling

The universe for the study included the female population ranging within the age group of 18 years to 49 years belonging to District Orakzai, with a literacy of at least matric (10 years' education). The sample size for the research was a number of 100 respondents. A proportional allocation of four samples was made

to each selected village council of total twenty-five (25) village councils. From each included village council, respondents were chosen using simple random sampling. The district comprises of 46 village councils, each treated as a stratum. A total of 25 village councils were randomly selected using lottery method to serve as strata for the study. While for selecting study samples, the purposive sampling technique was adopted, whereas criteria (for purposive sampling) was the inclusion of adult females with their ages ranging from 18 years to 49 years, belonging to District Orakzai and with a matric literacy, so that they can read and respond to the questionnaire.

Data Collection Methods

The secondary data was collected from already conducted studies on relevant topics, while primary data was gathered through questionnaire method. For this purpose, a list of questions i.e. the study's objective based questionnaire tool was developed using Likert-Scale (developed in 1932 by Rensis Likert), to know the factors that influence civil registration and vital statistics.

Data was collected by local Village Councils' Secretaries at their respective Village Council's offices. As the data was collected from female respondents, the Secretaries were locals who were aware of the indigenous norms of the study region. Primary data was gathered from only those females who came to the village council offices for vital registrations through their own will, accompanied by their male guardians.

4. Ethical Considerations

A brief of the study's purpose and significance was shared with the participants. The application (utilization) of primary data was explained that it will be used only for academic, research, and policy purposes. Furthermore, the respondents were assured that their identity will be kept confidential InshaAllah. The Village Council Secretaries were involved in the primary data collection process, who were locals and were well aware to the cultural norms of District Orakzai. The data was gathered through questionnaire tool, and the required interactions were made in Pashto language. The communication style with female respondents was shaped as per the suitability to the local norms. All interactions with respondents were conducted within an environment of respect and dignity. The data collectors (Village Council Secretaries) avoided language and behavior that could be perceived as disrespectful. The respondents were those females who came to Village Councils Offices for civil registration, and was accompanied by a male of their family; and the primary data was collected in their (male relatives) presence.

5. Data Analysis

The primary data is given in four (04) tables, each table is followed by its textual description for common understanding.

Table-1: Respondents View on Physical Distance Barriers in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics							
1 =Strongly agree (SA), 2 = agree (A), 3 = Undecided (UD), 4 = Disagree (D), 5 = Strongly Disagree (SD)							
No.	Variable	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Total
1	Civil registration office is located far from your home for you to travel with difficulties	2	50	0	45	3	100
2	Lack of public transport is a major barrier to travel to registration offices	3	72	1	22	2	100
3	Need to spend overall a day to complete the registration process	3	54	3	40	0	100

Description of Table-1: The Table 1 expresses respondents view on physical distance barriers impact on their civil registration.

The variable no. 1 shows respondents view on whether the civil registration office was located far from their home for them (females) to travel there with difficulties; a number of 02 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 50 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 45 disagreed, and a number of 03 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 2 shows respondents view on whether the lack of public transport is a major barrier (for females) to travel to registration offices; a number of 03 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 72 agreed, a number of 01 remain undecided, a number of 22 disagreed, and a number of 02 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 3 shows respondents view on whether they (females) have to spend overall a day long to complete the registration process; a number of 03 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 54 agreed, a number of 03 remain undecided, a number of 40 disagreed, and no one strongly disagreed.

Table-2: Respondents View on Restrictions on Mobility in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics							
1 =Strongly agree (SA), 2 = agree (A), 3 = Undecided (UD), 4 = Disagree (D), 5 = Strongly Disagree (SD)							
No.	Variable	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Total
1	Your family's traditions prevent you for traveling alone to a government office	2	62	0	35	1	100
2	Your male family member would accompany you to travel to the registration office	4	37	0	58	1	100
3	Your physical movement is restricted for cultural reasons	0	67	4	28	1	100
4	You feel fear or anxiety about going to a government building by yourself	4	46	0	50	0	100

Description of Table-2: The Table 2 expresses respondents view on mobility restrictions' impact on their civil registration.

The variable no. 1 shows respondents view on whether their family's traditions prevent them for traveling alone to a government office; a number of 02 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 62 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 35 disagreed, and a number of 01 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 2 shows respondents view on whether their male family member would accompany them to travel to the registration office; a number of 04 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 37 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 58 disagreed, and no one strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 3 shows respondents view on whether their physical movement is restricted for cultural reasons; no one respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 67 agreed, a number of 04 remain undecided, a number of 28 disagreed, and a number of 01 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 4 shows respondents view on whether they feel fear or anxiety about going to a government building by themselves; a number of 04 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 46 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 50 disagreed, and no one strongly disagreed.

Table-3: Respondents View on Awareness of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Procedures and its Benefits							
1 =Strongly agree (SA), 2 = agree (A), 3 = Undecided (UD), 4 = Disagree (D), 5 = Strongly Disagree (SD)							
No.	Variable	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Total
1	You are fully aware of the legal and socioeconomic benefits of civil registration	0	32	1	63	4	100
2	You are sure how to begin the civil registration process	1	37	5	53	4	100
3	You know which government office is responsible for different types of civil registration	2	62	0	33	3	100
4	You know that civil registration can help you access social welfare benefits	2	49	25	22	2	100
5	The process of civil registration is complicated	1	34	13	51	1	100

Description of Table-3: The Table 3 expresses respondents view on awareness of registration procedures and benefits on their civil registration.

The variable no. 1 shows respondents view on whether they are fully aware of the legal and socioeconomic benefits of civil registration; no one strongly agreed, while a number of 32 agreed, a number of 02 remain undecided, a number of 63 disagreed, and a number of 04 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 2 shows respondents view on whether they were sure how to begin the civil registration process; a number of 01 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 37 agreed, a number of 05 remain undecided, a number of 53 disagreed, and a number of 04 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 3 shows respondents view on whether they know that what government office is responsible for different types of civil registration; a number of 02 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 62 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 33 disagreed, and a number of 03 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 4 shows respondents view on whether they know that civil registration can help them access social welfare benefits; a number of 02 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 49 agreed, a number of 25 remain undecided, a number of 22 disagreed, and a number of 02 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 5 shows respondents view on whether the process of civil registration is complicated; a number of 01 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 34 agreed, a number of 13 remain undecided, a number of 51 disagreed, and a number of 01 strongly disagreed.

Table-4: Respondents View on Institutional Discernment in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics							
1 =Strongly agree (SA), 2 = agree (A), 3 = Undecided (UD), 4 = Disagree (D), 5 = Strongly Disagree (SD)							
No.	Variable	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Total
1	You have experienced less cooperative behavior from civil registration officials	0	8	1	89	2	100
2	You feel that you would be judged by the civil registration staff if you came alone	1	51	1	46	1	100
3	You have been told by an official that you need a male guardian for civil registration	0	36	0	61	3	100

Description of Table-4: The Table 4 expresses respondents view on institutional discernment impact on their civil registration.

The variable no.1 shows respondents view on whether they have experienced less cooperative behavior from civil registration officials; no respondent strongly agreed, while a number of 08 agreed, a number of 01 remain undecided, a number of 89 disagreed, and a number of 02 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 2 shows respondents view on whether they (females) feel that they would be judged by the civil registration staff if they came alone; a number of 01 respondents strongly agreed, while a number of 51 agreed, a number of 01 remain undecided, a number of 46 disagreed, and a number of 01 strongly disagreed.

The variable no. 3 shows respondents view on whether they have been told by an official that you need a male guardian for civil registration; no one strongly agreed, while a number of 36 agreed, no one remain undecided, a number of 61 disagreed, and a number of 03 strongly disagreed.

6. Conclusion of the Study

It was concluded from the study that in this information technology age a significant number of respondents told that civil registration office is located far from their home for them to travel there with difficulties. Similarly, significant number of respondents viewed that the lack of available public transport was a key barrier for them. Furthermore, some respondents shared that sometime they were required to spend nearly a whole day long to complete the registration process. Study found that they respondents' physical movement was restricted for cultural reasons. In addition to it, a significant number of respondents were not fully aware of the legal and socioeconomic benefits of civil registration. Respondents viewed that they were sure about how to begin the civil registration process. Majority

respondents knew that which government office was responsible for different types of civil registrations. Majority respondents were of the view that they know that civil registration can help them access social welfare benefits. Majority respondents viewed that the process of civil registration was complicated for them. The respondents have not experienced in-cooperative behavior from civil registration officials. The respondents were not pushed by officials that they need accompanying a male guardian for civil registration, however they think that they would be judged by the civil registration staff if they come to office alone.

7. Recommendations

The study gives the following recommendations Insha'Allah: -

Wherever the registration center is away, the distance and traveling cost may be mitigated for the females. For ensuring gender equity, the registration cost, preferably be made free for female applicants. The registration process must be made as simple as possible, free from unnecessary steps, and be made swift so that it is done in a minimum possible time. The community, especially females must be made aware of the registration centers, and about the registrations processes. The community, especially females must be made aware of the significance, socioeconomic benefits, and legal benefits of civil registration. The registration centers' staff be polite, helpful, and sophisticated while registering female respondents. The government shall devise a comprehensive policy that mitigate gender issues with respect to physical and institutional challenges.

References

- Ahmed, S., & Zahid, M. (2021). Barriers to birth registration in Pakistan: A gendered perspective. *Journal of Social Policy and Development Studies*, 18(2), 45–61.
- Akram, A., & Khan, R. (2007). Civil registration and vital statistics system in Pakistan: Issues and prospects. *Pakistan Development Review*, 46(4), 905–918.
- Breckenridge, K., & Szreter, S. (2012). Ed. Of De Vito CG. Registration and recognition. documenting the person in world history. [Proceedings of the British Academy, vol. 182.] Oxford University Press.
- Government of Pakistan. (2015). *Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) strategic framework for Pakistan*. Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform & NADRA.
- Holy Qur'an: Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13).
- Holy Qur'an: Surah Al-Anbiya (21: 107).
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. (2022). *State of human rights in Pakistan 2021*.
- ILO. (2019). *Civil registration and vital statistics for social protection*.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act. (2013).
- NADRA. (2020). *Annual Report 2019-2020*. National Database and Registration Authority.
- National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) [Pakistan], & ICF International. (2013). *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2012–13*.
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2016). *Pakistan demographic and health survey 2012–13*.
- Setel, P. W., Macfarlane, S. B., Szreter, S., Mikkelsen, L., Jha, P., Stout, S., & AbouZahr, C. (2007). A scandal of invisibility: Making everyone count by counting everyone. *The Lancet*, 370(9598), 1569–1577.
- Shah, A. (2012). The 18th amendment and provincial autonomy. *The Lahore Journal of Economics*, 17(SE), 385–424.
- Siddiqui, N., & Khan, H. (2019). Integrating FATA: Legal, administrative and security challenges. *Pakistan Journal of Public Policy*, 10(2), 110–123.
- UN Women. (2020). *Mobility and access to services for women in Pakistan: A situational analysis*.
- UN. (2023). *Sustainable development goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions*.
- UNDP. (2020). *Legal identity for all: Challenges and opportunities*. United Nations Development Programme.
- UNESCAP. (2019). *CRVS Decade (2015–2024): Midterm Report*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

- UNESCAP. (2020). *Civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific: Progress and challenges*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- UNESCAP. (2020). *CRVS decade midterm report: Pakistan country report*.
- UNICEF Pakistan. (2021). *Birth registration in Pakistan: A status report*.
- UNICEF. (2019). *Birth registration for every child by 2030: Are we on track?* <https://data.unicef.org/resources/birth-registration-for-every-child-by-2030/>
- UNICEF. (2019). *Birth registration*.
- UNICEF. (2021). *Birth registration for every child by 2030: Are we on track?* United Nations Children's Fund.
- UNICEF. (2021). *Birth registration in Africa: Challenges and progress*. UNICEF Publications.
- United Nations. (2014). *Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system (Rev. 3)*. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. United Nations.
- United Nations. (2019). *Guidelines on a legislative framework for civil registration, vital statistics and identity management*.
- World Bank. (2018a). *Inclusion and identity: Challenges to CRVS systems in South Asia*.
- World Bank. (2018b). *Gender and development: Addressing constraints to female civil registration in South Asia*.
- World Health Organization. (2012). *Strengthening civil registration and vital statistics for births, deaths and causes of death: Resource kit*.