

SSR Criteria I: About Population Research Centre

Establishment of the Centre:

Population Research Centre (PRC), was established by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), New Delhi, Govt., of India in 1985 but the Centre has started its functioning in 1988. This Centre is one in the network of 18 Population Research Centres (PRCs) established by the Ministry in the Universities and Institutions of National Repute. The Centre is funded in the form of grant-in-aid by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Name of the Research Centre.	: Population Research Centre (PRC).
Faculty/Department/Centre.	: Centre is an establishment of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt., of India.
Date of Establishment.	: 22. 08. 1985
Authority of Establishment.	: University Council Meeting Decision: 09. 06. 1985
Administrative Order No.	: F. 2(3) PRC/Dev/85 dated 22. 08. 1985

Infrastructure of the Centre:

Population Research Centre is housed in an independent single-storey building consisting of 6 rooms. The Centre has a small but rich library which has a rich collection of books on a variety of topics related to demography, population studies, public health, research methodology, quantitative techniques, tribal demography, and women issues. Besides, the library houses several research reports in the field of population, health and family welfare from National and International agencies.

The Centre has a highly configured computer lab consisting of 8 computers and 4 laptops. The required demographic and statistical software packages like SPSS, CS-pro, DEAP and STATA are available with the Centre. Data sets from DHS, Census, NSSO, NFHS, LASI and SRS are also procured by PRC and extensively used for research purposes.

Recently the Census Workstation has been established in the Centre, which will help the faculty, research scholars and students to get micro-level census data. Further, a Digital Population Clock has been installed by the Centre at the Main Gate (Maulana Rumi Gate) of the University, which displays live population figures of India and Jammu and Kashmir.

Vision:

The vision of the PRC is to conduct high-quality multidisciplinary research on population composition, demographic change and health policies and programmes in India.

The PRC aims to be recognized as premier organization for monitoring and evaluation of National Health Mission (NHM) of India to provide insights for programme implementation and course-correction at District, State and National level.

Moreover, the PRC boosts its contribution in academic programmes of its University by teaching and capacity building of students, young researchers and programme officials at District, State and National Level.

The PRC actively seek collaboration with national and international organizations to advance research on several cutting-edge areas in population sciences including innovative methodologies for surveys and data collection.

The overall vision of the PRC is to be recognized as a dynamic organization and a Centre of excellence on population health policies and programmes in India.

Mission:

The mission of the Centre is to conduct the high-quality research in population sciences including focus on evaluation of policies and programmes on health and family welfare in India.

General Objectives of PRC:

Population Research Centre (PRC), University of Kashmir has the following general objectives: **a)** to conduct the research in population sciences; and assist the MoHFW and the State Government with policy inputs and feedback on population and health issues; **b)** to regular evaluation and monitoring of National Health Mission(NHM), and other health and family welfare programmes and Schemes; **c)** to conduct Large Scale Pan-India Demographic and Health Surveys like National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) and Longitudinal Aging study of India (LASI); and **d)** to streaming/data validation of Health Management Information System (HMIS) and DH Ranking.

Specific Objectives of PRC:

Population Research Centre (PRC), University of Kashmir has the following general objectives: **a)** to provide an independent and objective assessment of the working of National Family Health and Welfare programmes/schemes and their impact in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir; **b)** to undertake the research studies on various socio-economic, demographic and communicable as well non communicable diseases; and **c)** to undertake the research studies on the thrust areas specific to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Outcome of the Centre:

The Centre is mandated by the MoHFW to undertake research projects related to family planning, reproductive and child health, demographic research, population and development linkages, qualitative & quantitative aspects of population control, with a view to optimize the

feedback from these research studies for strategies, formulation, implementation, and modifications of on-going schemes.

In addition to the regular regional/state-specific research, the PRC is also involved in a number of Pan India studies/research by the Ministry. PRC is also involved in the monitoring of important components of NHM Programme Implementation Plans. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has involved PRC in improving the Health Management Information System in Jammu and Kashmir.

Further, PRCs are engaged in research work on various flagship schemes of MoHFW like HWC, HBNC, LaQshya, NQAS, Kayakalp, NCDs, and NVHCP etc. PRC was also involved in the conduct of large scale demographic and health surveys like NFHS and LASI in Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre besides organizing seminars, workshops and training programs, also acts as a data bank on population and health for the faculty members, research scholars, students and the community in general.

Meetings with the Boards/Meetings attended:

Population Research Centers (PRCs) of the Country are required to submit an Annual Work Plan (AWP). This plan includes Pan India studies, multicentre studies, primary studies, and secondary studies that PRCs intend to conduct in upcoming years. This collaborative process involves active participation from all PRCs. In this endeavour, each PRC is assigned the responsibility of submitting proposals for the AWP studies. While preparing the proposals, priority areas as suggested by various programme Divisions of MoHFW are considered.

Subsequently, these submitted proposals undergo a rigorous review process conducted by the PRC Scientific and Advisory Committee (PSAC) and the Programme Management Unit (PMU) committee, both established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). This meticulous review ensures the quality and feasibility of the proposed studies before they are approved and implemented. During this process, the key person (coordinator) along with the author of a particular study is invited to attend and participate.

The objectives of the AWP studies is to address the information gaps by conducting in-depth research, planning strategic interventions, publishing valuable knowledge resources, emphasizing the practical application of study findings, and focus on evaluation of policies and programmes on health and family welfare in India. These objectives are designed to demonstrate how the research outcomes can inspire policymakers and program managers, encouraging them to adopt and implement the recommendations derived from the study results.

Syed Khursheed Ahmad
Coordinator