

Proportion of rural and urban populations

Although the trend toward urbanization is strong in West Pakistan, the Province is still overwhelmingly rural. In 1951 (see Table 1.5), 82 percent of the people lived in the country; by 1961 the proportion had fallen to 77.5 percent. A continuation of this trend during the next decade would give urban and rural populations by 1971 (using the "probable" population projection in Table 1.3, column 3) of 15.5 and 38.5 million people, respectively 29 percent and 71 percent of the probable population at that time of 54 million in West Pakistan. The rural population would have increased by 16 percent and the urban population by 60 percent.

It is interesting to note that there are twenty cities and towns in West Pakistan having between 50,000 and 500,000 people, and that their average rate of growth is comparatively high. These urban concentrations, widely distributed throughout the Province, could provide important opportunities for development of commercial agriculture and of industries based on agricultural needs and products.

Education

In 1951, according to the census taken during that year, 86.2 percent of the population of Pakistan were illiterate. It is likely that an even smaller percentage of the population than is indicated by this figure are "functionally" literate. The number of people who can read and understand a newspaper or a set of instructions, or who can write much more than their own name, is probably about one out of ten. Illiteracy is especially serious in the rural villages. Because only a few of the village adults can read and write, there is small respect for literacy. Children leave school when they are between six and ten years old, and they tend to forget what little they have learned in their attempt to conform to the adult society.

Agriculture - Land, Water, and People in Combination

Agriculture in Pakistan's economy

Whether one considers population counts, contribution to national income, markets for industries, supplies of raw materials, or products for export, the farmers of Pakistan are the foundation of her economy.

More than three-quarters of the people of West Pakistan live in farm villages; most of the rest have their roots in the soil. In 1960-61, 55 percent of Pakistan's national income (West and East Wings combined)