

Supply Response of Basmati Rice: Evidence from Pakistan

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Abstract

The study of agriculture supply response to prices has received immense prominence in recent years and is an important agenda for future research. The objective of the research is to understand the factors affecting the acreage basmati rice supply response in Pakistan covering the period from 1975-76 to 2012-13. The study empirically examines the own and cross price elasticity demand of basmati rice. The analysis of the own price and cross price elasticity indicates that a change in price of a single crop not only affects the land allocation and other resources for that particular crop but also changes the allocation of land to other crops depending upon their competitive relationship. The study concludes that own price and the price of irri rice significantly affect acreage under basmati rice. Regarding cotton the study found that the farm gate price of cotton is insignificant determinant of the basmati rice area while high price of fertilizer have negative impact on basmati rice acreage. Policy makers should formulate such a comprehensive agricultural policy that should treat all the determinants of basmati rice acreage as a group because prices of other crops like irri rice also have significant impact on acreage supply response of basmati rice. Fertilizer price has negative relation with the rice production in this regard to sustain higher rice production government should provide subsidized fertilizers to rice farmers. Technological change is at the heart of high growth strategies so there is need to evolve new high yielding varieties of basmati rice.

Keywords: Supply Response; Unit Root Tests; Fully Modified OLS; Basmati Rice; Pakistan

Introduction

Agriculture was the dominant sector of the economy in 1947. Its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 53 per cent then but it declined with the passage of time: 20.9 per cent during FY 2014-15 and 21 per cent during FY 2011-12 (Economic Survey: 2011-12, 2014-15), for example. And the contribution of this sector to the GDP continues to decline as its growth

rate has been less than 4 per cent for the last five years. Some of the major reasons are: limited investment in construction and maintenance of infrastructure; poor performance of the cropping sub-sector; slow rate of technological innovation; inadequate water availability for irrigation purpose; marketing and trade restrictions; shortage of agricultural credit for small farmers; pest and livestock disease problems and increasing cost of inputs etc.

Pakistan is famous for the production and export of basmati and irri rice. Basmati 385 rice, super Kernel basmati rice, D 98 basmati rice, etc are the major types of exported basmati rice. The exported types of irri rice include irri-9 long grain rice, irri-6 long grain rice, irri-386 long grain rice etc. Pakistan has to boost basmati crop production in order to meet requirements of considerable high quality exports of rice and maintain its position as rice exporting country. It needs to explore diversity in rice yield by promoting activities in research and development. Therefore, farmers should be given pure, healthy, and quality seeds, better quality of material to resist pest and insect diseases. Furthermore, in order to get high yield of rice, effective control of insects and pests, proper management of weeds, efficiency in timely sowing of nursery beds and transplantation and proper timings of harvesting and threshing with great care to avoid any mixture for the better milling recovery are essential. However, the usage of nitrogenous fertilizers must be avoided because it pollutes water resources and causes pest/insect diseases and results loss in quality of grain and yield.¹

The present study has been conducted to achieve three objectives. To empirically examine the determinants of acreage supply of basmati rice in Pakistan; find own and cross-price elasticity demand of basmati rice; and draw some relevant policy implications based on empirical findings of the study. The remaining part of the study is organized as follows: Section 2 consists of review of selective past studies that have been conducted to estimate supply response of rice and other crops in Pakistan. Analytical framework is provided in section 3 along with the sources of the data. Section 4 contains discussion on the results of the study and section 5 concludes the study with some policy implications.

Literature Review

Ali and Flinn (1989) have estimated profit inefficiency of farm-specific basmati rice producers in Pakistan by taking samples from Punjab and observed that variable-coefficient profit frontier partially regressed using Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) and Ordinary least Square (OLS)

techniques respectively. Data on management of farmers were collected on a per-plot basis by repeating visit interviews for their 1982 basmati rice crop. The production of basmati rice was concentrated in three ecologically homogenous districts namely Sheikhpura, Gujranwala, and Sialkot, also acknowledged as the Punjab Kalar rice tract. Sample of one hundred and twenty farmers was selected and 60 respondents from each village. The findings demonstrate that mean level of price and inefficiency at farm resources is 28 per cent, with wider range of 5 per cent to 87 per cent. There was average loss of Rs. 1222 per hectare. Socio-economic factors that are related to loss of profit are the non-agricultural employment, education of farm household and a credit constraint. However, Institutional determinants of loss of profit are the late application of fertilizer and a water constraint. The benefits of increasing efficiency of farmers are large in Punjab as a reduction of 25 per cent in loss of profit for producers of basmati rice might generate extra profits of worth Rs. 240 million in each season of rice.

Hussain et al. (2007) analyse factors that affect supply of rice in Punjab, Pakistan. Time series data pertaining to rice zone in Punjab covers the period from 1970 to 2001, have been used in the study for the variables basmati area includes production, rice yield, average of whole prices of irri and basmati rice, rainfall, canal withdrawals and fertilizer prices. Co- integration and Error Correction Model (ECM) techniques have been used to estimate the supply equation. Results show that farmers in Punjabi are price responsive. The price of own basmati rice, water availability of Kharif and rainfall have positive effect on basmati yield and acreage while irri price affects the basmati acreage negatively. The elasticity of long run supply are consistent and quite robust with the theory of economics.

Mahmood et al. (2007) observed factors responsible for oscillation in basmati rice area in Punjab, Pakistan. Time series data have been taken for the period 1982 to 2002 for area, real prices, yield, etc. in the study. Basmati rice acreage is taken as dependent variable. The explanatory variables are in lagged form and include irri rice area, basmati area, basmati real price, yield of basmati rice, and real price of irri. The goodness of fit and diagnostic tests shows that performance of estimated equation is acceptable. The quite high value of adjusted R^2 is quite high; it indicates that 84.5 per cent variation in the model is explained by rice planted acreage. The coefficient of lagged basmati acreage is significant and positively indicates that the current year acreage is much affected as compared with last year acreage. The coefficient of basmati price is positively related with basmati rice acreage and it influences planting

decision of basmati. Likewise, the coefficient of basmati yield is positively related with basmati acreage. The cross price effects have negative signs as expected and are significant at 10 per cent suggesting the price of irri has competitive negative association with basmati acreage. Nonetheless, coefficient of irri area has negative sign but insignificant.

Mohammad et al. (2007) have examined the wheat supply response in all agro-ecological zones of Punjab, Pakistan. The Punjab has further been divided into four different agro-ecological zones namely rice, cotton, barani and mixed. The annual time series data on area, wheat, refined sugar, cotton, real prices of wheat, rainfall and withdrawals from Rabi canal during crops sowing season have collected from all zones for the period 1970-2001. The whole sale price index is used to calculate real prices used in the study. The Johansen Multivariate Cointegration (JMC) technique has been used in the study. The results showed that different elasticity exists for each zone of supply response. The price of wheat and other crops such as sugarcane and cotton has significant influence on wheat acreage while the irrigation and rainfall, among the non-price factors, have positive impact on wheat acreage during short run. The findings show that elasticity of wheat supply is inelastic both in short and long run. The own price acreage elasticity in long run are 0.46, 0.53 and 0.49 in rice, cotton and mixed zones respectively.

The responses of cotton, wheat, area of sugarcane crops, changes in their prices and other pertinent factors along with impact of rice yield on cotton area in Pakistan was examined by Nosheen and Iqbal (2008). They used the Nerlovian model for estimation of results. The study covers the time period from 1970-2007 and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique is used to estimate the coefficients of area response model for respective crops.

The calculated short run price elasticity for wheat was 0.045 while it was 0.105 during long run. The estimated price elasticity of cotton during short run is 0.263 per cent while the long run elasticity was 1.09. The calculated short run price elasticity of sugarcane was 0.229 while estimated long run elasticity was 0.653. The estimated coefficient is positive but insignificant. Powerful oligopolistic or monopolies structures exist in wheat, cotton and sugarcane markets that distort the inducement of producers which further result in inefficient and wasteful usage of national resources.

Akhtar (1999) argued that sugarcane remained protected in Pakistan. WTO (2008) referred that provincial governments uphold prices of sugar support in

conjunction with the Federal Government. The domestic price of sugar was some 10 to 15 per cent above parity of import in FY 2005-06 and FY 2007-08 but it was below some 5 per cent in FY 2006-07. However, farmers have been significantly supported by domestic prices of sugar in earlier years being set at some 50 to 60 per cent above world levels. Although, crop sector has been contributing almost half of the share of agricultural GDP, there has been small analytic research available on determinants of demand and supply of these crops. The researchers mainly concentrated on supply response, cost of production, and elasticity of demand. The studies on supply, cost and demand lack complete information on functions in demand and supply. Arifullah (2007) stated that the majority of the studies on production cost present estimates that are different for the same year and crop mainly due to under or over estimation. Supply response studies on Pakistan have found a good number relative to studies on other aspects; these include Falcon (1964), Ahmad and Chaudry (1987), Cumming (1975), Ali (1988) and Tweeten (1986). However, sugar cane crop has been covered by only three of these studies i.e. Ahmad and Chaudry (1987), Ali (1988) and Tweeten (1986). Moreover, these studies do not endow with econometrically estimated full supply or production functions that reflect the major supply side determinants of the crop. Consequently, fewer studies are available on demand side like Cornelisse and Kuijpers, 1987; Ahmad and Chaughary 1987; Ashfaq, Griffith and Parton, 2001; Hamid et al. 1987; and Alderman 1988 but none of these cover sugarcane crop. Hussain, Sofia and Zakir (2006), while analyzing the economics of sugarcane production in Pakistan using Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) argued that in production of sugar, Pakistan has no comparative advantage at export parity prices but suggests that crop of sugarcane might produce an import substitution crop in order to meet the demand of sugar industry. As far as specific problems confronting supply and demand determinants of sugarcane crop are concerned, there is hardly any research literature available pertaining to Pakistan.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The Econometric Model

The supply response knowledge greatly helps in farm decision making regarding resources allocation in right direction. It can help policy makers and planners to achieve and allocate production targets and planning during long term. The models of supply response are used to forecast the upcoming agriculture foods supply. Consequently, it provides a framework for adjustment of production to the optimum resource employment promote

economic development. A simplified acreage response function used by researchers might be represented by the following expression

$$A = f(P, X) \quad (1)$$

Where A is the planted acreage of the commodity, P is the price of the commodity, and X is a set of variables affecting supply of commodity.

General form of our acreage supply equation can be written as:

$$ABR_t = f(ABR_{t-1}, FGPBR_{t-1}, FGPBR_{t-1}, FGPBR_{t-1}, FGPBR_{t-1}, FGPBR_{t-1}, Tech)$$

Specific form of acreage supply equation may be written as:

$$LABR_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LABR_{t-1} + \beta_2 LFGPBR_{t-1} + \beta_3 LFGPIR_{t-1} + \beta_4 LFGPC_{t-1} + \beta_5 LFGPF_{t-1} + \beta_6 Tech_t + \mu_t \quad (2)$$

LBA_t = Natural log of current year basmati area (000 hec)

LABR_{t-1} = Natural log of lagged basmati acreage (000 hec)

LFGPBR_{t-1} = Natural log of lagged farm gate price of basmati rice (Rs/40kg)

LFGPIR_{t-1} = Natural log of lagged farm gate price of irri rice (Rs/40kg)

LFGPC_{t-1} = Natural log of lagged farm gate price of cotton (Rs/40kg)

LFGPF_{t-1} = Natural log of lagged farm gate price of fertilizer (Rs/40kg)

Tech_t = Technology which is proxied by time i.e.,

1975-06=1, 1976-07=2, 1977-08=3,.....2012-13=38

μ_t = Error term

As the study will estimate the log-log model given in equation (2), therefore, slope coefficient β_2 measures the own price elasticity of basmati rice acreage with respect to farm gate price of basmati rice. Slope coefficients β_3 and β_4 measure the cross price elasticity of basmati rice acreage with respect to farm gate price of irri rice and farm gate price of cotton. β_5 measures the cross price elasticity of basmati rice acreage with respect to price of fertilizer.

Data Sources and Transformation

The required data have been sourced from Agriculture Statistics of Pakistan and Pakistan Economic Survey, Finance Ministry, Islamabad. According to Ali (2000) as farm gate prices are not readily available by a rule of thumb, they are calculated from wholesale prices reported in Agriculture Statistics of Pakistan and Pakistan Economic Survey by assuming that farm gate prices are uniformly 20 per cent lower than the wholesale prices. According to Mahmood et al. (2007), lagged area of basmati rice is used in the study because farmers mostly make decisions of future year's area on the basis of previous year's area allocation and it also captures the effects of farmers experience with the given crop. The study covers the time period from 1975-06 to 2012-13. Data for all variables are transformed into logarithmic form

except technology as time trend has been used as a proxy for technology variable in the study.

Estimation Technique

Time series data generally endure from the problem of unit root which may lead to spurious regression between the variables. Considering this in view, before estimating the model (2), the data have been first checked for stationarity. In this regard, the study has used Augmented Dicky-Fuller (ADF) test. After checking stationarity of data, next pace is to estimate long run relationship among supply of basmati rice per acreage for model (2). Several econometric techniques are available to study such association. However, the present study has used Philips and Hansen (1990) Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS).

Results and Discussion

This section of the research is most important as it will help us to empirically find and discuss the nature of relationship between the variables given in the acreage supply response model (2). As the study had used the time series data, therefore, first of all checking the stationarity of the variables is essential. To this end, table 1 reports the results of ADF unit root test. All the variables included in the study are non-stationary at level but they become stationary at first difference i.e., they are all integrated of order [1(1)].

Table 1: ADF Unit Root Test Results

Variables	Level		First difference		Order of integration
	t-statistics	p-value	t-statistics	p-value	
LABR	-1.192	0.668	-6.259	0.000	I(1)
LFGPBR	0.466	0.983	-7.102	0.000	I(1)
LFGPC	-0.240	0.924	-8.168	0.000	I(1)
LFGPIR	0.623	0.988	-6.585	0.000	I(1)
LPF	2.120	0.999	-4.232	0.002	I(1)

After checking the stationarity of the time series under the analysis, the model (2) is estimated using the Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square (FMOLS) estimation technique which is a uni-variate cointegration technique. Results are listed in table 2. Coefficient of lagged area of basmati rice ABR (-1) has positive relationship with current year basmati acreage (ABR) and it is significant at 1 per cent level. Value of coefficient of ABR (-1) is 0.759 showing that one per cent increase (decrease) in ABR (-1) will increases (decreases) the ABR by 0.759 per cent. This finding is consistent with the results of Chaudary (2000) that lagged acreage is found to be important

determinant of nearly all current acreage of the crops taken into analysis and seem to urge for measures conducive for making performance of crops better in terms of productivity. Furthermore the result is also in line with Mahmood et al. (2007) and Kollurmath et al. (2008).

Coefficient of lagged farm gate price of basmati rice FGPBR (-1) has a positive relationship with current year basmati acreage (ABR) and it is significant at 5 per cent level. Value of coefficient of FGPBR (-1) is 0.194 indicating that one per cent increase (decrease) in FGPBR (-1) brings 0.194 per cent increase (decrease) in ABR. This finding is in line with the results of Hussain et al. (2007) that own price of basmati rice has positive effect on basmati acreage. Likewise this result is also consistent with Mahmood et al. (2007) and Talb and Begawy (2008). Regarding cross price effects, coefficient of lagged farm gate price of irri rice [FGPIR (-1)] is negatively related with current year basmati acreage (ABR) and it is significant at 5 per cent level. The coefficient of FGPIR (-1) is -0.137, suggesting that if FGPIR (-1) increases by 1 per cent then ABR will decrease by 0.137 per cent. Similarly, if FGPIR (-1) decreases by 1 per cent then ABR will increase by 0.383 per cent. This finding supports Mahmood et al. (2007) that coefficient of lagged irri rice price has competitive inverse relationship with basmati acreage.

Coefficient of lagged farm gate price of cotton FGPC (-1) has a negative impact on current year basmati acreage (ABR) but it is insignificant. It implies that price of cotton has no effect on the area under basmati rice cultivation. Regarding lagged price of fertilizer [PF (-1)] it is found that it is negatively related to basmati rice acreage (ABR) and it is significant at 10 per cent level. Demand elasticity of ABR with respect to PF (-1) is -0.106 which indicates that if PF (-1) increases by one per cent then there will be a decrease of 0.106 per cent in ABR and vice versa. This finding supports the result of Hussain et al. (2007) that fertilizer price negatively affects the basmati acreage and yield. The result is also in line with the result of Kollurmath et al. (2008).

Technology variable has a positive relationship with the current year area under basmati rice (ABR). Coefficient of technology is significant and positive which indicates that with the evolution of technology overtime, the area under basmati rice has also increased. Complementary interventions, like improvement in technological endowments, development of water resources, market regulations and infrastructural development are regarded as potential

tools to sustain higher rice production [Danh, 2007]. In Pakistan most popular form of mechanization are power rigs, bulldozers, tractors with cultivators, tube wells, and threshers and trailers. Bulldozers, tractors and power rigs are largely handled by public sector available to farmers on subsidized rates, whereas other machines are owned by medium and large sized farmers. Machines are provided to medium term farmers on rental basis to their neighboring small farmers for their use. Medium sized farmers provide their farm machines on rental basis to their neighboring small farmers in addition to their own use. Because small farmers have limited resources due to which majority of them are using outdated technology. Rice drying and rice par-boiling technologies are required for obtaining higher rice yield that are not available in our country [Amjad and Anwar, 2003].

Dependent Variable= LABR		Observations=36
Variable	Coefficient	t-statistics
Constant	1.845**	2.183
LABR (-1) ²	0.759***	6.162
LFGPBR (-1)	0.194**	2.513
LFGPIR (-1)	-0.137**	-2.387
LFGPC (-1)	-0.095	-1.227
LPF (-1)	-0.106*	-1.787
TECH	0.097***	4.687
R ² = 0.953		Adjusted R ² = 0.944
		D.W = 1.951

Note: ***,** and * indicate significance at 1 per cent, 5 per cent and 10 per cent level respectively.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

Supply response is an important research issue associated with agriculture development of Pakistan. The study of agriculture supply response to prices has received a great deal of emphasis in recent years and will continue to be an important research agenda in future. The objective of the research is to understand the factors affecting the acreage supply response of basmati rice in Pakistan covering the period from 1975-76 to 2010-11.

After detailed analysis under this research, it is concluded that own price and the price of irri rice significantly affect acreage under basmati rice. The

analysis of the own price and cross price elasticity indicates that a change in price of a single crop not only affects the allocation of land and other resources for that particular crop but also changes the land allocation of other crops depending upon their competitive relationship.

Regarding cotton, it has been found that the farm gate price of cotton is insignificant determinant of the basmati rice area. Results about the effect of fertilizer show that high price of fertilizer has a significant negative effect on the basmati rice acreage because high farm gate price of fertilizer leads to higher cost of production for basmati rice. Consequently farmers will tend to decrease the area under basmati. Also adoption of latest technology is required for higher rice production as technology has proved to be significant determinant of the basmati rice acreage. Policy makers should formulate such a comprehensive agricultural policy that should treat all the determinants of basmati rice acreage as a group. Prices of other crops like irri rice also have significant impact on acreage supply response of basmati rice. Fertilizer price has negative relation with the rice production in this regard; to sustain higher rice production government should provide subsidized fertilizers to rice farmers. Technological change is at the heart of high growth strategies so there is need to evolve new high yielding varieties of basmati rice.

In order to enhance the rice production, there should be more research on new and imported hybrid seeds. Research centers should be made to test the reliability and validity of imported seeds according to climate change conditions and rice growing land areas of Pakistan as some imported hydro seeds are not suitable to grow here. Training should be provided to farmers about new and imported hybrid seeds and use of fertilizers. Government should grant more funds for research on rice seeds suitable to grow on Pakistani land. Attention should be paid to estimate cost and benefits associated with technologies used in production of rice. Government should reduce prices of fertilizers; provide more access to canal water, subsidy on agricultural machinery and easy access to consultancy facilities. Smart loans should be provided to farmers on easy instalments. Farmers should be offered satisfactory price for their produce, up to date knowledge about market prices along with better storage facilities and improved means of transportations.

Notes

¹<http://thefinancialdaily.com/NewsSearchResult/NewsSearchDetail.aspx?NewsId=75984>

² Detailed regression results of FMOLS are pasted in appendix.

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Legal Pluralism in Traditional Societies: A Case of Agricultural Marketing Relations in Northwest Pakistan

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Abstract

One of the characteristics of traditional village system in the developing countries is the existence of plural legal systems governing social, economic, and political life of the populations. One such example is the prevalence of formal and informal marketing relations in traditional village system in northwest Pakistan. Changes in marketing structures overtime have led to transform the balance between prevailing formal and informal marketing relations. This paper analyzes the marketing relations in northwest Pakistan and changes in this relationship over time. The findings of the paper reveal that two types of regulative mechanisms co-exist in the area that govern the agricultural marketing system: the societal regulative mechanism and the commercialized regulative mechanism. The former is governed by the informal and personalized relations and the latter by new formal and commercialized relations. Due to the rapid influences of modernization and urbanization in the recent past, a shift has taken place from personalized relations to the specialized functional relationships. Despite a tremendous expansion in the new relations, however, farmers' switch-over rate is slow because of the functional efficiency of the new system having comparative advantages for the elite groups (progressive farmers) only. To hamper the expansion of potential social polarization in the wake of this imbalanced effect, the large groups of small farmers adhere to the traditional informal relations. Hence, the personalized marketing relations are still efficiently functional and have strong influences on the organization of farm-household relations. The paper concludes that in order to achieve rural institutional sustainability, a balance should be maintained in both personalized and commercialized networks of relations.

Keywords: Traditional village system; Marketing channels; Informal relationships; Commercialized relationships.

Introduction

Efficient market structures and relations are essential to accelerate economic development in a country. Markets offer households the opportunity to

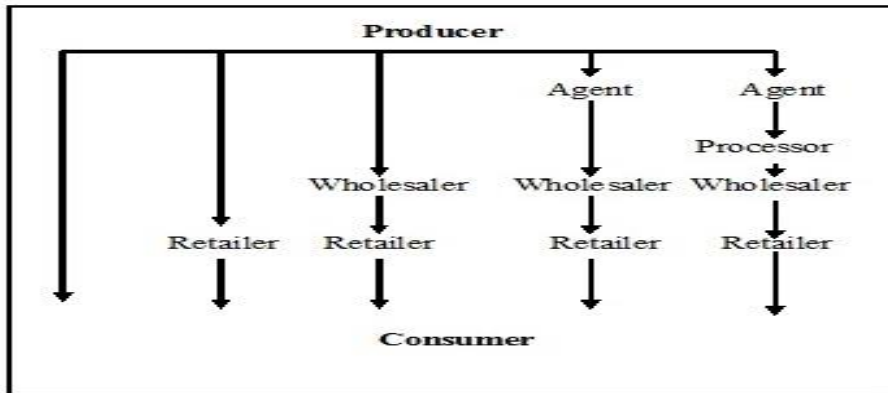
specialize according to the comparative advantage and thereby enjoy welfare gains from the trade. Recognition of the potential of markets as engines of economic development and structural transformation gave rise to a market-led paradigm of agricultural development during the 1980s (Reardon & Timmer, 2005). With participation in farm markets, household's disposable income increases, and so does demand for multiple goods and services (Staatz, 1994). The efficacy of farm markets primarily depend on the marketing relations prevailing among different stakeholders involved in the marketing system. In the traditional rural farm-based markets, two types of marketing relationships simultaneously exist; formal and informal marketing relations. The formal marketing relations are the short run relations which are based on economic and financial interests. The informal relations, on the other hand, are the longstanding, personalized set of relations which are based on social ties such as mutual trust and reciprocity (Manig, 1992).

Farm Markets in Peshawar

Drawing on the field surveys, the most important farm products in the research area are sugar cane, gur¹, vegetable, wheat, maize, milk, and fodder. For gur, vegetables, and even fruits, five large wholesale markets exists in the main city of Peshawar. All these markets are private enterprises. Other products such as milk, milk products, fodder are sold directly to the consumers at village or in Peshawar. There exists no formal market for cereals, which are marketed directly either in the village or sold to the dealers in Peshawar. The marketing of gur, vegetables, and fruits, however, do not take place directly but through commission agents. A number of commission agents dominate gur, vegetable, and fruit² markets (Jan, 2012). There exist plural marketing relations between producers and commission agents at gur and vegetables markets which will be discussed in the following sections.

Marketing Channels

Farm products are distributed to the consumers via marketing channels³ which may be more or less direct and are formed by the trading activities of the first-hand intermediaries, processors, wholesalers, and retailers, who buy and process raw materials and distribute finished products to consumers (Jan, 2007). Marketing channels begin with the producers and end with the consumers. The marketing channels in the study area are illustrated with the help of figure 1. The most important marketing channel for majority of the products is the commission agent. The second important channel is direct sale to the consumers in the same village. A small number of sellers directly sell their products to small traders in the village stores.

Figure 1: Marketing Channels for Selected Products in the Study Area

Source: (Jan, 2012; Haines, 1999)

The main purpose of this study is to analyse the existence of plural marketing relations in the traditional villages system of Peshawar.

Research Location and Data

The paper is a component of the study conducted by the author as part of his PhD research in 2005-06 in six selected villages in Peshawar, Pakistan (Annex 1). The villages included in the study are Gulbela, Kochian, Dalazak, Kukar, Mushtarzai, and Yousaf Khel. During the first phase, basic information about all household in these villages was collected through a semi-structured questionnaire. All the households were then separated as farm and non-farm households. Out of the farm households 20 households were randomly selected from each village. Thus the total sample size across six villages was 120. For data to be unbiased and highly representative, farm households were categorized based on land tenure system and other socioeconomic conditions. The selection of all households was made proportionately from each household category. Thus proportionate stratified randomized sampling technique was used to collect data.

Marketing Situation in the Area

The geographical, topological, infrastructural and social differences among the survey villages are important causes of heterogeneity in the cropping pattern and marketing products in the research villages (Manig, 1991). The difference in the village-wise specialization of farm products can be seen in the following sections.

Households Maintaining Marketing Relations

The global agricultural system is rapidly transforming from subsistence to commercialized farming system. Farmers are now producing for their own consumption as well as for marketing so that to increase their disposable income (Barrett et al. 2005). In the research area, farmers also produce for their own subsistence as well as for marketing purposes. Table 1 exhibits details of different farm products being offered for marketing. It is clear from the table that vegetable, gur, wheat, maize, sugar cane and milk are the major marketing products in the area⁴. The table shows that 28% farmers were involved in marketing vegetables. Most of the vegetable producers were owner operators with non-farm income. Followed by vegetable was 'marketing of gur' in which 17% of the total producers were involved. From the survey, it was confirmed that majority of the total gur producers were tenants who had rented in land from landlords. This category is predominantly present in Kochian and Gulbela which are under the influence of few selected landlords. Similarly, farmers involved in sugarcane marketing also mostly belong to these two villages.

Table 1: Household Maintaining Marketing Relations in the Survey Villages

Villages	Products Marketed								Total
	Veg.	Gur	S.cane	Maize	Wheat	Milk	Fodder	Others	
Kukar	5	0	2	3	4	7	6	0	27
Yousaf Khel	11	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	15
Gulbela	0	10	9	0	0	3	0	1	23
Kochian	7	15	5	1	4	3	0	0	35
Dalazak	8	3	3	9	11	1	0	7	42
Mustarzai	15	0	0	1	1	0	4	1	22
Total	46 (28.0)	28 (17.0)	19 (11.8)	15 (9.1)	23 (14.0)	14 (8.5)	10 (6.1)	9 (5.5)	164 (100.0)

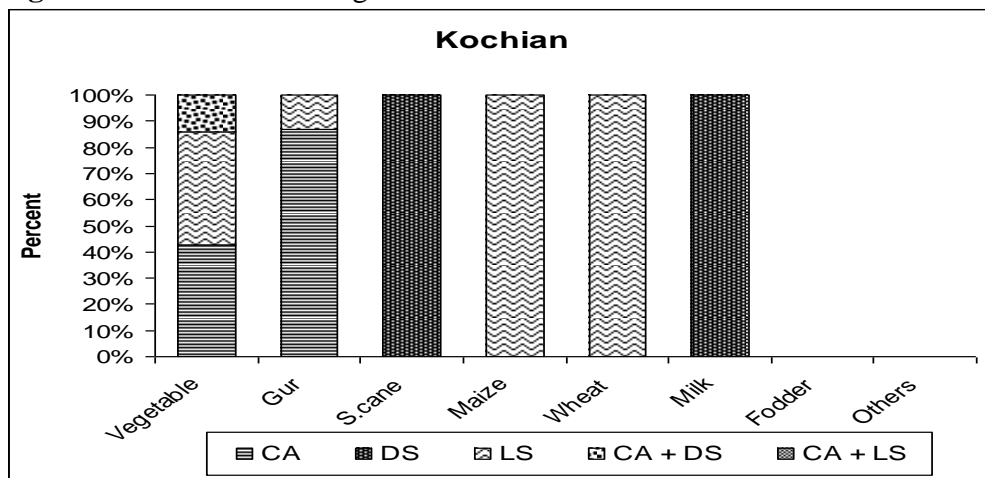
Source: Survey results, 2004-05

Marketing Channels for Different Farm Products

The farm products reach to consumers through different channels. Figure 2 exhibits village wise graphical representation of different channels through which farm products are conveyed to the end-users. In this paper, marketing channels for farm products are discussed for only two villages; viz., Kochian and Dalazk, primarily because of the marketing of vegetable and gur in case of which plural marketing relations exist.

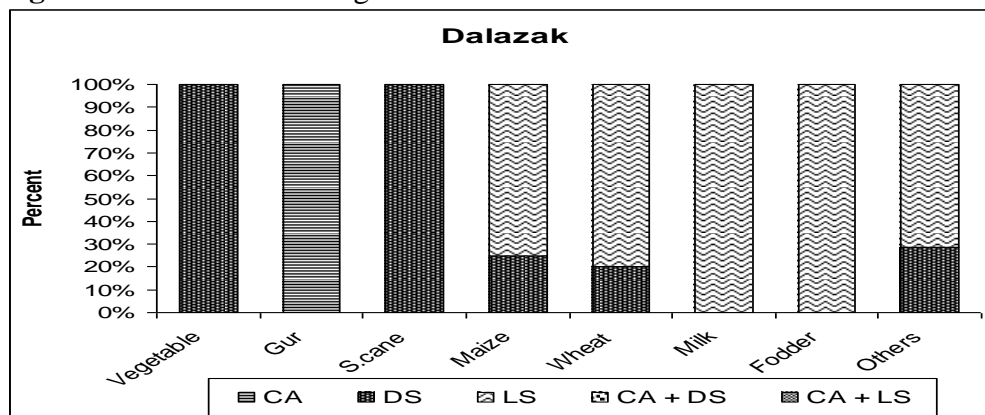
In Kochian gur, vegetable and sugarcane are the main marketing products. However, only gur and vegetable are marketed through commission agents. Farmers sell 88% of gur through commission agents in Peshawar. Some quantity of gur is also sold directly in the village either to the consumers or to the shop keepers for further sale. Vegetable is also an important product from Kochian. Almost 43% of vegetable is sold through commission agents. Besides, 43% of vegetable is sold directly to the main dealers who come to the village and buy the standing crop (vegetable) in the field and then market it by their own. The rest of the products like sugar cane, wheat, maize and milk take place through direct channels.

Figure 2.1: Channels for Agricultural Products Marketed in Kochian



Source: Survey results, 2004-05

Similarly, in Dalazak, the main marketed products are vegetable, wheat, maize, fodder and others. Vegetable and gur in Dalazak are marketed only through commission agents whereas all sugarcane is sold directly to the sugar mill. Similarly, 80% wheat and 75% maize are sold locally for seeds or consumption of the villagers and buyers from the nearby villages. The remaining wheat and maize is sold directly to the dealers in Peshawar. In Dalazak, reed which is used as roofing material is naturally grown on the water logged land, 71% of which is sold locally in the village.

Figure 2.2: Channels for Agricultural Products Marketed in Dalazak

Source: Survey results, 2004-05

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that the selection of marketing channels depends on the product specialization and the market place where they are sold. Vegetable and gur, which are sold in the main markets in Peshawar, are marketed through commission agents. Milk and sugarcane are marketed directly whereas cereals and fodder is mostly sold locally in the villages.

The Role of Commission Agent

As discussed earlier, a number of commission agents dominate vegetable and gur markets in Peshawar. There exist two types of regulative mechanisms in these markets that govern the marketing system; the societal regulative mechanism and the commercialized regulative mechanism. The former is governed by the informal and personalized relations and the latter is governed by new formal and commercialized relations. The relations of producers with commission agents at gur markets are mainly based on personal and social ties whereas the relations between producers and commission agents at vegetable markets are mostly based on financial terms. During the empirical field work, it was observed that more than one commission agents were proactively functional in both gur and vegetable markets. The choice of dealing with a single or multiple commission agents is based on some social and economic factors which the producer take into account while dealing with commission agents. Table 2 illustrates the number and percentage of farmers doing business with one or more commission agents.

Table 2: Producers Dealing with the Number of Commission Agents

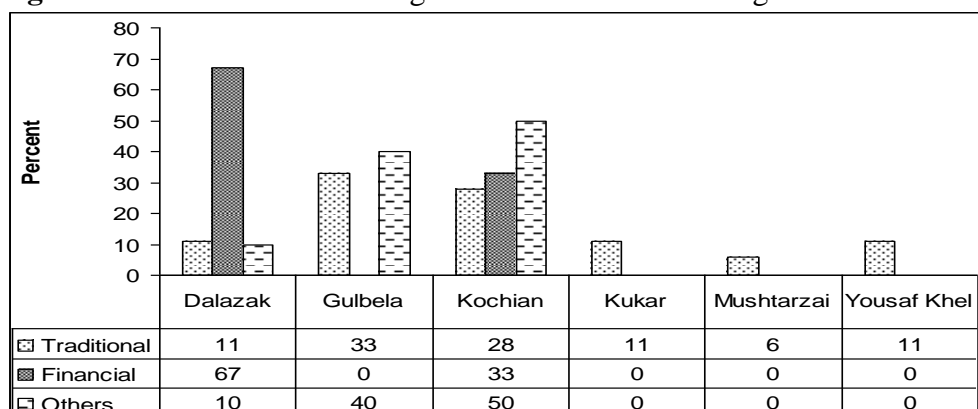
Commission Agents	Frequency	Percent
One	28	47.5
More	31	52.5
Total	59	100.0

Source: Survey results, 2004-05

The table shows a slight variation between the numbers of farmer dealing with one or more commission agents. As is clear from the table, 47.5% of farmers confirmed to be involved with only one commission agent whereas 52.5% of the farmers were involved with more than one commission agents. The reasons for dealing with one or more commission agents are discussed in the following sections.

Reasons for Dealing with One Commission Agent

The ultimate goal of all marketing activities is profit (welfare) maximization. Therefore, the choice of a particular or more than one commission agents is determined by the producers on the basis of social and financial returns. Figure 3 illustrates the reasons for dealing with one or more than one commission agents. Figure 3.1 shows the percentage of farmers in different villages who preferred to deal with one commission agent. The farmers were dealing with one commission agent mainly because of three reasons – traditional, financial, and others. In Dalazak, 67% of the farmers urged to deal with one commission agent merely because of the financial reasons. In Dalazak, most of the producers were marketing vegetables and their opinion was that one commission agent gives them higher prices than different agents. Another 11% farmers preferred to deal with one commission agent because of their traditional and social relationship with the commission agent. Similarly, 10% farmers were involved with one commission agent due to different other reasons like getting informal credit, landlord's obligations, etc.

Figure 3.1: Reasons for Dealing with One Commission Agent

Source: Survey results, 2004-05

In Gulbela and Kochian, 33% and 28% producers respectively were dealing with one commission agent due to traditional relationship. As we know farmers in these two villages are primarily gur producers, they prefer to deal with one commission agent because of the control of landlords. In Kochian, however 33% of the farmers preferred one commission agent because of the financial reasons. As vegetable is also produced in Kochian, therefore, the number of farmers who preferred to deal with one commission agent for financial reasons belonged to vegetable producing group. This shows that high degree of specialization occurs in selection of commission agents for different products. For gur, the selection of commission agents is mostly based on traditional ties whereas for vegetables, it is based on financial reasons.

The figure further shows that farmers doing business with one commission agent due to other reasons belonged mainly to Gulbela (40%) and Kochian (50%) which are gur producing villages. At the start of the growing season, the commission agents visit these villages and offer small farmers with seasonal loans to finance inputs. Similarly, the landlords also influence tenants to deal with a particular commission agent due to their vested interests.

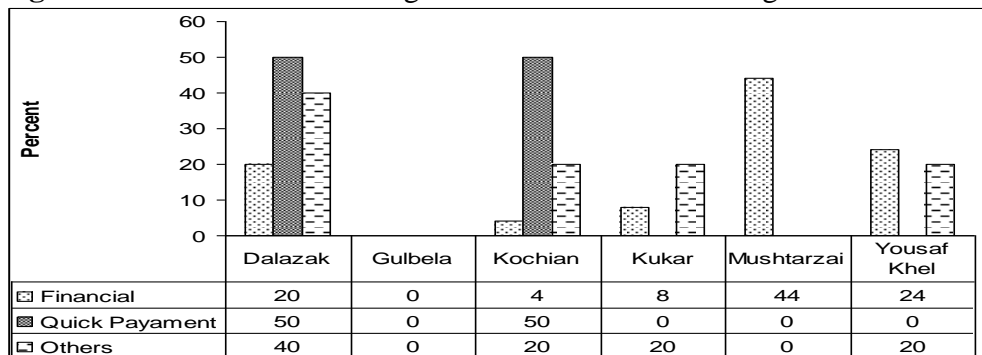
This shows that social relations and ties play a significant role on the production and exchange relations of rural people. The social linkage in the form of sharing festivities and the existence of the informal credit system bound the marketing agents into specific groups. Based on these two elements of the social system, the marketing relations are strictly defined and the

producers prefer to deal with one commission agents for traditional and other reasons (informal credit, social pressure from landlords), even sometimes ignoring the financial reasons.

Reasons for Dealing with More Commission Agents

The reasons for preference with one or more commission agents differ mainly by traditional or commercial ties with commission agent. The most important reason for dealing with different commission agents was based on financial preferences. From the field work, it was confirmed that farmers preferring business with different commission agents due to financial reasons mostly belonged to vegetable producing villages.

Figure 3.2: Reasons for Dealing with More Commission Agents



Source: Survey results, 2004-05

Figure 3.2 elaborates the reasons for dealing with more than one commission agents. The figure shows that 44% farmers in Mushtarzai and 24% farmers in Yousaf Khel were involved with more than one commission agents due to financial reasons. Similarly, in Kochian and Dalazak each 50% farmers reported to prefer more than one commission agents because of the quick payment.

By comparing the situation of farmers dealing with one or more commission agents, it is concluded that the impact of the social relations on the economic relation of the people in the traditional village system is quite high which causes considerable reduction in the pace of institutional changes in such societies. The farmers who preferred business with more than one commission agents belonged to the vegetable producing groups who are mostly owner operators with non-farm income. On the other hand, farmers dealing with one commission agent belonged to gur producing groups who are mostly tenants

(in other words traditional farmers). They have relatively less outer-orientation as compared to the mixed earning groups and are more under the control of the land owners. Therefore, they often sacrifice their economic interests for the social ones. In the traditional village system, the functional efficiency of the traditional social relations is high compared to the other societies, yet existing simultaneously.

Conclusion

The study shows that the most important marketing products in the area are gur, vegetable, sugarcane, milk, wheat, maize, and fodder. Gur and vegetables are marketed through commission agents whereas rest of the products is marketed through direct channels. The difference between marketing relations of commission agents with producers at gur and vegetable markets is based on economic and social ties. The gur commission agents place more emphasis on personal and social relations whereas the commission agent's relation with producers at vegetable markets is mostly based on financial terms. Based on the study it is concluded that although both types of legal system prevail in the area, a shift has taken place from one-dimensional and personalized relations to the specialized functional relationships. However, the resulting new formal-functional relations are still superimposed and dominated by the personalized networks of relations. This means that the deep rooted social relations of people in the traditional village system in the research area have strong influence on their marketing relations. It is recommended that a balance should be maintained in both personalized networks of relations and commercialized networks of relations so that to achieve rural institutional sustainability in traditional village system in particular.

Notes

¹A non-crystalline locally produced brown sugar.

²Fruits are not mainly produced in the research villages but brought from other part of the country to these markets; hence, are excluded from the main discussion.

³Marketing channels are defined as a set of interdependent business/organisations, which make a product or service available to intermediary and end users (Haines, 1999).

⁴Other important farm products being offered for marketing are sugar cane, wheat, maize, milk, and fodder. But all these products are marketed without involvement of any commission agent, hence, there exist no plural system, and are therefore, excluded from the main discussion.

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Annex 1: Map of Pakistan showing the Research Area, Peshawar.

Source: <https://www.google.com.pk/search?q=map+of+pakistan+showing+peshawar>

To Laugh or not to Laugh: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Humour Employed in *Khabardaar*

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Abstract

Although the primary function of humour is to make people laugh, it also plays a major role in shaping people's attitudes. Apparently the function of humour is to generate laughter in order to amuse people and release their tension but verbal humour also involves the use of language to construct or deconstruct people's identity. The aim of the current study is to explore the identity constructed through the humour employed in one of the programmes: *Khabardaar* telecast on Express, a Pakistani News channel, in order to unmask the hidden ideologies. Being a qualitative case study, instances of verbal humour taken from different shows of the programme are analyzed within the framework of *Critical Discourse Analysis*. The data analysis reveals that in most of the cases the physical features of people, including their obesity and skin colour, are made the target of humour. The study exposes injustice against such people who are considered physically unattractive, according to our cultural notion of attractiveness and addresses the issue of inequality highlighted by Fairclough (1995). The humour is not just confined to the physical appearance of people but also involves ridiculing people on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, and nationality. The paper ends with a note of recommendation for the TV channels in general and the comedians in particular, that advertently or inadvertently, become agents in spreading hatred and intolerance against individuals and groups leading to further reinforcement of different forms of prejudice that already exist in our society.

Keywords: Humour; Tendentious humour; Identity construction; Stereotyping; CDA

Introduction

Humour is a part of social discourse that generates laughter. Although humour does not come under serious discourse, according to Weaver (2011), "it can have a range of serious effects" (2). These effects can be observed at both individual and societal level and can therefore be analyzed from both psychological and socio-cultural perspectives. Gouine (2004) is of the view that "humour does not dismiss the seriousness of the situation, but displays

the severity for others to see, understand and mock" (39). It would not be wrong to say that sometimes humour as an indirect tool acts as a more powerful means of expression than any direct discourse of serious disposition. Just as humour can have different effects on individuals and groups and can convey meanings that can be offensive, as is the case with tendentious humour (intended to humiliate others) it can take different forms. In most of the cases humour is intentional and therefore contrived, but it can also be accidental in some cases, as it may occur unintentionally because of the inadequate command of the target language on part of the speaker or writer or because of the slip of tongue or pen. Nevertheless, in intentional humour that is often based on ethnicity, race, or gender, the target is made the object of ridicule that may take the form of prejudice leading to stereotypical judgments against the entire group. There are numerous examples of such jokes in Pakistani society that are targeted against Pathans, Memons, Sikhs, and above all against women, particularly in their role as wives, which have resulted in the emergence of stereotypes against these groups. The implication of these jokes has far more serious repercussions than people realize, as with the increase in their popularity, there is an increase in the level of acceptance of the underlying stereotypes which reinforce the prejudice against the targeted group. Not only do such intergroup jokes have a shattering effect on the psychology of the individuals who become the direct recipients of such jokes, the social harmony of the society is also negatively affected. What is more disturbing is that the members of the targeted group begin to see and judge themselves through the lens of the existing stereotypes that blurs their identity as members of a distinct group and result in the development of a negative self-image that at times gives birth to inferiority complex.

This means that besides the categorization of humour as intentional and accidental, humour can also be categorized as tendentious and non-tendentious. The type of humour that is based on ridiculing one's own group is self-deprecating in nature while the one ridiculing different groups or individuals is tendentious or disparaging humour. It is the second type of humour that is the focus of the current study. Humour, whether it is tendentious or non-tendentious, can be either achieved through the use of pun, hyperbole, or other word play. Whatever linguistic resources are employed for deprecating or tendentious humour, the risk of its content offending the targeted social or religious groups is always present. According to Ermida (2009), "humorous targeting is morally objectionable, especially if it manipulates material that is prejudicial and offensive to groups or individuals" (102).

Modern research on disparaging humour is based on one of the three major theories: *the disposition theory* proposed by Zillmann and Cantor (1976); *the misattribution theory* proposed by Zillmann and Bryant (1980); and *the prejudiced norm theory* by Ford and Ferguson (1994). All these theories have one thing in common and that is the enjoyment of disparaging humour on the part of people who do not belong to the targeted group, making them look down upon the groups or individuals they already dislike, which in turn inculcates a sense of superiority in them leading to a further enhancement of their self-esteem which occurs at the expense of downgrading others. It cannot be denied that people's response to disparaging humour can either make it socially acceptable or unacceptable. Ermida (2009) has made an apt comment: "humour may function both as a unifying force and as a divisive one in interpersonal relationships" (93).

Besides the specific categorization of humour theories, Günther (2003) divides humour theories into three broad categories: *release theories*, which provide psychological explanation of humour; *incongruity theories* that focus on the formal characteristics of humour which involves an attempt to bring two or more incongruous elements together to create humour; and *superiority theories* which explain the role of humour in establishing or breaking social networks. Because superiority theories take into account the socio-cultural dimension of humour, they are relevant for the current study.

In addition to the broad categorization of humour theories, Günther (2003) in his extensive study on jokes presents taxonomy of conversational humour dividing it into thirteen categories. Some of the most frequently employed categories include: playing with words (use of pun); narrating a funny story; using vulgar language; insulting others; creating funny situations (fantasy humour); violating social conventions; generating implicature; and the use of exaggeration. The current study focuses on one of the thirteen categories that deal with tendentious humour which involves insulting or criticizing out-groups.

Aim of the Study and the Research Questions

The study aims at analyzing the use of tendentious humour---humour that may lead to further segregation and prejudice in society by demeaning individuals and groups. Following are the specific research questions that the study aims to answer:

1. What kinds of verbal expressions are used to create humour in *Khabardaar*?

2. What kinds of people and/or groups are mostly made the target of tendentious humour in the programme?
3. How does the humour employed in the programme affect the identity of the targeted groups in general and the individuals in particular?

Literature Review

Research on humour has been carried out in a variety of contexts, particularly its effects, which have been studied on learners of different age groups in the classroom setting with the aim to show a link between humour and successful learning (Garner, 2006; Gurtler, 2012; Klein, 1985; Lundberg & Miller, 2002; Torok, McMorris, & Lin, 2004). The results of these studies provide enough evidence indicating a strong correlation between humour and effective learning. Although humour has been the focus of research for several years, it has become a major area of research in Linguistics after the emergence of Critical Discourse Analysis, which aims at discovering the underlying ideology behind the use of language and the repercussions it has. This is the reason that disparaging humour targeting different groups has begun to attract researchers in the last couple of years, particularly focusing on gender related jokes (Abrahams & Bippus, 2011; Eyssel & Bohner, 2007; Ford, 2000; Ford & Ferguson, 2004).

Besides research on gender-based humour, there is a respectable body of research literature on ethnic and racist humour as well (Billing, 2001; Boskin & Joseph, 1985; Davies, 1990; Gonzales & Wiseman, 2005; Katz & Schiffman, 2005; Lowe, 1986; Oring, 1991; Schutz, 1989). One such study focusing on ethnic humour was conducted by Oshima (2000) using a mixed methods survey on ethnic jokes in Hawaii, which is a multi-ethnic Oceanic State of USA. The study employed a survey questionnaire which was distributed among different organizations including schools and universities; total 604 individuals responded to the questionnaire. Besides using questionnaire, the researcher also interviewed some participants representing different age groups and professions. The results of the survey report that the majority of the participants look at ethnic humour in a positive way as there is a general acceptance of ethnic jokes in Hawaii. The reason for this acceptance is the nature of ethnic jokes. Since the ethnic jokes in Hawaii do not aim at downgrading ethnic groups, they are seen as a means of diffusing aggression resulting in inter-ethnic tolerance which is necessary for the harmonious co-existence of different ethnic groups. Nevertheless, the results of this study cannot be generalized as the nature of ethnic humour varies from one culture to the other and so does the response to it.

There is a considerable body of research on the use of disparaging humour (Burmeister, 2015; Maio, Olson, & Bush, 1997; Olson, Maio & Hobden, 1999). In one of the studies on disparaging humour, Parrott (2013) investigated the use of such humour in comedy clips shown on TV and the audience's reaction to those clips. Using content analysis followed by an experiment, the researcher discovered the frequent use of humour targeting weight and physical appearance of people in the comedy clips. It was also discovered that the audience present in such shows gave approval of such disparaging humour through their response in the form of laughter. Furthermore, the results of the experiment used in the study reported negative effects on the self-esteem of people who considered themselves over-weight. Disparaging or offensive humour has also been extensively studied in media in different parts of the world (Burmeister, & Carels, 2014; Ford, 1997; Fouts & Vaughan, 2002). However, there is hardly any research on the use of humour either in Pakistani context in general or Pakistani media in particular except one study by Khan (2015) that deals with the breaking of Grice's Maxims for creating humour in two Pakistani sitcoms. Since no research on tendentious humour has been carried out in Pakistani context so far, the current study is undertaken to fill this gap. The study is different from the studies referred to in this section because of its use of CDA for analyzing the humour employed in one of the Pakistani comedy shows.

Methodology

This qualitative study employs the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis to analyze the nature of verbal humour employed in different shows of *Khabardaar*, a comedy talk show which was first telecast on Geo News with the name of *Khabarnaak*, but is now telecast on Express News Channel four days of the week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Since the research is rooted in qualitative paradigm using case study design, instances of verbal humour are selected from different shows of *Khabardaar* telecast from January 2016 to April 2016. The shows were downloaded from an internet website (given in the reference list) so that the examples can be noted down and transcribed for analysis. Since the humour employed in the programme is mostly in Punjabi, the examples are not only transcribed using Roman transcription but an English translation is also provided in each case for the convenience of the readers.

The instances of verbal humour categorized as disparaging or tendentious humour, are selected using purposive sampling technique. These instances are divided into sub-categories depending on their specific nature and are

analyzed using the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. The reason for using CDA as a framework for analyzing the data is the ability of CDA to unmask the ideologies that remain concealed otherwise. The same point is reinforced by Mayr (2008) who states that “CDA is concerned with exposing the often hidden ideologies that are reflected, reinforced and constructed in everyday and institutional discourse” (10).

Data Analysis

Khabardaar is a unique show because it is a bilingual programme in which Urdu is used for discussion on serious issues while Punjabi is employed only for humour. The use of Punjabi exclusively for humour in this show is in itself an instance of injustice to the language and its speakers as the non-Punjabi speakers have begun to associate Punjabi with fun and have developed a misconception that Punjabi language is fit only for cracking jokes assuming that the Punjabis are mostly engaged in non-serious discourse. *Khabardaar* is not the only show that has promoted the use of Punjabi for cracking jokes in the show; the same trend is prevalent in other comedy programmes on different channels, as a result of which Punjabi has begun to be associated with humorous rather than serious discourse. The use of Punjabi for creating humour in different TV programmes, particularly its use in *Khabardaar*, has affected the image of Punjabi speakers in general and Punjabi language in particular. This misrepresentation of Punjabi speakers and their language can be seen as an instance of injustice and inequality when seen from the lens of CDA. Besides confining Punjabi to the function of ridiculing people through tendentious humour, the expressions that are used for referring to the people with the intention of creating humour are derogatory and imply prejudice against certain individuals and groups and this prejudice against minorities cannot be treated as light humour; rather it is a matter of serious concern under the umbrella of CDA, as according to van Dijk (1993), CDA “studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted in text and talk in the social and political context” (352). Discourse cannot be analyzed in isolation as both the causes and effects of discourse are equally important. Whether discourse is serious or non-serious, its implications cannot be ignored.

According to Fairclough (1995) it is important both for linguists to be sensitive to how discourse is shaped by and helps to shape social structures and relations, and for sociologists to be sensitive to how social structures and relations are instantiated in the fine detail of daily social practices, including discourse (65).

On the basis of the analysis of the data using CDA, eleven categories emerge. All these categories manifest power abuse and inequality. Given below are the details for each category.

Obesity

Obesity is stigmatized not only in the western world but also in many Asian countries. People who are over-weight are made fun of as a result of which they feel marginalized. A society's attitudinal evaluation of people and their physical traits can, to a certain extent, be attributed to the representation of the traits of people and their group identity in a positive or negative way. People start believing in the reality that media construct and the same holds true for the ideology the media promote. Our judgment about people is often filtered through the lens of media which can also sometimes distort our own perception of reality leading to a biased judgment of out-group and in-group members. Obese characters are often made the target of jokes in media as a result of which those who belong to the out-group (the ones who are not obese) also make fun of obese people in real life. According to Burmeister (2015), "media depictions of obesity related stereotypes can affect viewers' expression of attitudes and beliefs about obesity" (15).

There are numerous instances of verbal expressions used in *Khabardaar*, in which obesity is made the target of humour. Referring to one of the comedians, Agha Majid, as 'drum' in one of the shows of *Khabardaar* telecast on March 24, 2016, Honey Albela, another comedian, does not only insult the direct recipient of this word but also all those who are obese. Agha Majid is also referred to as *aaRu* (peach) on many occasions in the same programme, to draw a comparison between the man and the fruit based on the round shape. Other terms used to refer to him are: *moTa* (fat), *garma* (a local fruit which is similar to watermelon in size and shape but different in taste and colour), *haathi* (elephant), *saa~D* (bull), *dumba* (sheep), *truck*, etc. He is also criticized for his over-eating, which is evident from Honey Albela's comment: "*aaRu da meda bot vaDDA e*" (This peach's (referring to the fat actor) intestine is very big). On another occasion in the same show, Honey Albela tells the audience about the same person (who he does not leave any chance to criticize): "*eda zaati tanduur e ae siraf apne lai roTi banaa~da e*" (He has a personal oven in which he makes *roTi* only for himself). In almost every show of *Khabardaar*, Honey Albela as well as the other comedians pass such humorous comments to ridicule him. Even the host does not hesitate to attack his obesity.

In '*farhang-e-aasafia*' that is one of the segments of the show, the host, Aftab Iqbal, discusses some Urdu words and their pronunciation and meaning for the purpose of educating the audience. Sometimes he also discusses some Urdu idiomatic expressions in this segment. In one of the segments of '*farhang-e-aasafia*' telecast on April 8, 2016, while he was discussing the idiom '*maamlakhaTaaime~paRna*' which means 'delay in work', Honey Albela distorted the idiom pointing towards the fat actor "*tera maamla khaTaaai vich na imoTaaai vich pegaya e*" (Your issue is not delayed but fattened) which was another attack on his obesity. Burmeister (2015) has succinctly summed up the role of media in the stigmatization of obesity:

...the combined message presented in entertainment, news, and commercial media tends to be that to be overweight is to have a correctable character flaw. These messages could have an effect on the way viewers think about people with obesity in real life by affecting their attitudes and beliefs about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions for obesity. (p.7)

This kind of ridicule of those who are obese inculcates inferiority complex in such people and can shatter their self-esteem. In order to escape such disparaging humour, they start avoiding social gatherings; some of them even resort to instant weight-reducing pills which can put their health at stake.

Skin Colour

People with dark complexion are stigmatized and marginalized in our society and this stigmatization occurs often at the expense of the glorification of people with fair complexion on media through the advertisements of fairness creams. In contrast to the glorification of fair complexion, one can observe a completely opposite projection of people with dark complexion in comedy shows aired on different channels. Such people are ridiculed on the basis of their skin colour which is unfair as it promotes the concept of inequality on the basis of skin colour which is one of the forms of discrimination. The humour used in *Khabardaar* is also used for targeting people with dark complexion. In one of the shows of *Khabardaar*, Honey Albela's comment on the dark and bald character, who is made to sit silently behind him and other comedians, is highly derogatory, as pointing towards him, he says : "*e saanusaza den vaasterakheyave*" (He is made to sit here as a punishment for us).

In another show of *Khabardaar* telecast on Feb 28, 2016, a person who is introduced as a journalist, reporter and a columnist is ridiculed for his dark complexion and features. Honey Albela, while talking to the other comedians, looks at him and says: "*edamu~te vex lagda e Shahrukh nu tin*

vaariyarqaanhoya e” (Look at his face! It seems as if Shahrukh<an Indian film celebrity> has suffered from jaundice three times). Commenting on the journalist’s looks, Honey Albela further says: “*yaqiinkarojado~ da e paaiayave menu ae chaavaalaDilip Kumar lag raya e*” (Believe me! Since this person’s arrival, this person selling tea <pointing towards the man selling tea>has begun to appear Dilip Kumar to me).The person selling tea is always ridiculed for his dark complexion and therefore in order to humiliate the journalist, Honey Albela compares the reporter with that person and arrives at the conclusion that the journalist is uglier than the one selling tea. Both the remarks on the person who is presented as a journalist and a reporter are humiliating as his complexion is made the target of deprecating humour which can be highly offensive.

Physical deformity

Besides targeting obesity, people with different forms of physical deformity, like those who stammer and the ones who are squint-eyed or suffer from some form of visual impairment are also targeted through disparaging humour. For instance, the character of a squint-eyed police constable, who is also shown as partially blind, played by one of the comedians, may be very disturbing for the squint-eyed and the visually impaired people. The frequency with which he is ridiculed and the way he treats others and is himself treated through the verbal assaults can have a shattering effect on the psychology of people with such defects. In one of the shows of *Khabardaar*, the host Aftab Iqbal, while interviewing the squint-eyed police constable, asks him how many children he has to which he replies six. Honey Albela interferes in the interview and says: “*tin ne par enuchhenazaraa~de ne*” (There are three but they appear six to him), which is an attack on his visual impairment. On another occasion when a woman seeks Hanif’s help, Honey Albela says with an element of wonder: “*Hanif to~ teedekaarvaalemadadnaima~gde*(Even Hanif’s family members do not seek Hanif’s help).

Government Institutions

Not only are the people with physical deformity laughed at, the police department is also made the recipient of humiliation and ridicule, implying that the department inducts people who are not physically fit for the job. The role of an SHO and his subordinates in one of the acts played by the comedians in different shows of *Khabardaar* present a very negative image of the police department to the outside world. It is true that humour can be an effective way of criticizing government institutions that require improvement; it cannot be denied that making fun of these institutions to the point of

ridiculing them can have an adverse effect on their performance as they begin to consider themselves as incompetent as they are projected on media. It is pertinent to mention here that because of the negative projection of police in Pakistani media, Pakistanis have stopped respecting their police and disrespect breeds disrespect. Programmes like *Khabardaar* have further tarnished the image of police in the eyes of people through negative stereotyping. Wood believes that “When we stereotype, we use a general label to define specific members of a class” (2001, p. 115). Wood’s statement holds true for Pakistani Police force that has begun to be negatively stereotyped as corrupt and incompetent despite the presence of competent and honest police officers. Moreover, the characters that are made to play the role of police in *Khabardaar* are all shown to be unfit for the job carrying the implication that the people employed in government institutions are not capable of the job they are given. The role of an SHO played by Agha Majid in *Khabardaar* is an example of the criticism leveled against police officers in general, implying that they are not only physically unfit but are also incompetent and indulged in corruption.

The problem with *Khabardaar* and other comedy shows is that things are exaggerated for generating humour and the danger with this kind of exaggeration is that people start making overgeneralizations which result into stereotypes. Once labels begin to be assigned to individuals and groups, there is an obvious increase in the degree of inequality and the conflict between the powerful and the powerless aggravates. The result is the emergence of more instances of injustice against the marginalized groups and the individuals who do not conform to the ideals created by the society in general and the media in particular.

Physical Features

Tendentious humour can also involve ridiculing people on the basis of their appearance and physical features, which implies violating the code of ethics. Such deprecating humour may generate laughter but it can have a long-term shattering effect on the self-esteem of people who are not physically attractive and beautiful.

In the segment titled: *Naseer Bhai’s challenge*, anyone from the audience or a live caller sings a song from any old film and Naseer Bhai has to tell the name of the singer and music composer. Since he has an excellent memory, there is hardly any song that he fails to tell the details of. Honey Albelia often teases Naseer Bhai by passing insulting remarks on his appearance and the way he

speaks. Even when he gives accurate details of the song, he is often made the target of humour and when he is unable to provide the details, which rarely happens, Honey Albela passes highly derogatory remarks. In one of the segments of *Khabardaar* telecast on April 23, 2016, Naseer Bhai could not tell the details of the song that a live caller sang as a challenge. In response to Naseer Bhai's failure, Honey Albela said: "***edagoaache hoe tittarvarga mu~ hogaya e***" (His face is resembling a lost pheasant). Comparing him with a bird he attacks Naseer Bhai's physique. Since he is short and thin, he is compared to a bird.

Besides Naseer Bhai, there is another person whose looks are targeted. He is given the character of a eunuch who is made to look very ugly and is named Sheetal. Whenever there is a segment in which the comedians play the role of eunuchs and sing and behave in their style, Sheetal is particularly made fun of and becomes the victim of disparaging humour. In one of the shows telecast on March 24, 2016, Honey Albela comments on Sheetal saying: "***North Korea ne jeRabambnaibanaya ode vichmasaala Sheetal da paayasi***" (Sheetal's ingredients were mixed in the bomb that North Korea made). In another show telecast on April 24, 2016, Honey Albela asks the host: "***sab to Drona paaRkeRa e***" (Which is the most horrifying mountain?). The host, Aftab Iqbal responds "Nanga Parbat" which is also given the title of "the killer mountain". On hearing the host's response, Honey Albela asks surprisingly: "***bot xaufnaak e? Sheetal to~ vi zyaada?***" (Is it too horrifying? More horrifying than Sheetal?). Honey Albela further says: "***Sheetal nu asi Nanga parbat to phaRayasi***" (We caught Sheetal from Nanga Parbat). In the examples cited here, highly pejorative language is used for creating humour. By commenting on Sheetal's features and her complexion, the comedians marginalize all those people who are not physically attractive.

Sheetal is a man in the guise of a eunuch and is apparently always targeted because of not being physically attractive. However, deeper analysis reveals the hidden ideology behind the tendentious humour that Sheetal becomes a victim of. Through the humour targeted at Sheetal, eunuchs are also ridiculed. Since they are the suppressed group and are relegated to a very low status in Pakistan, they are the victims of discrimination at every level. Nevertheless, the strange thing about the humour targeted at Sheetal, who is in the guise of a eunuch in *Khabardaar*, is that Sheetal's own community members (the other comedians playing the role of eunuchs) also use pejorative language to ridicule her.

Gender

It cannot be denied that our attitudes about people belonging to the stereotyped groups are often the result of our exposure to such stereotypes through media. Media not only has the power to alter people's attitudes and opinions but it also has the power to strengthen the already held beliefs which may not be too strong otherwise. Although one can find numerous forms of discrimination practiced in different societies, gender discrimination is one of the most frequently observed forms of discrimination and this discrimination is more obvious in media, particularly on TV. Whether one observes advertisements or daily soaps or comedy shows, one can find several instances of gender bias against women, which becomes more obvious if the discourse is analyzed within the framework of CDA. The programme under analysis in this paper is no exception. In fact, after the passing of the bill in favour of women empowerment in the Punjab Assembly, there are quite a few shows of *Khabardaar* telecast in the year 2016 that carry a special segment on this issue in which women empowerment itself is made the target of disparaging humour implying that women empowerment may disempower men. The ideology that is promoted through these apparently humorous acts implies the legitimacy of male dominance, disapproving the idea of women empowerment.

Besides this, there is only one female comedian in the programme who is made to play different characters and she is often criticized for her masculine style of discourse. There are some other female actors who rarely appear in some special acts and when they do they are also ridiculed.

Ethno-linguistic Minorities

Discriminating people on the basis of their ethnicity and language is yet another common feature found in societies that lack ethnic and linguistic tolerance. In some shows of *Khabardaar*, Saraiki language is made fun of. For instance, one of the comedians is often shown speaking Saraiki in *Khabardaar* but whenever he does so, he is ridiculed for his Saraiki accent. The humour used in *Khabardaar* is mostly tendentious as it manifests prejudice against the marginalized groups, whereas "for marginalized groups, humour may be used strategically to challenge powerlessness (for example, gallows humour) and to turn dogma on its head, to identify and comment on paradoxes" (Longo, 2010, p. 123). Unfortunately, humour employed in *Khabardaar* mostly humiliates individuals on the basis of their appearance and target ethno-linguistic minorities, which does more injustice than justice to these groups. Analyzed within the framework of CDA, one can find

numerous instances of injustice through the use of tendentious humour in the programme which reinforces the prevalent discrimination against certain ethno-linguistic minorities in the country.

Poverty

People who belong to the lower socio-economic strata of the society are relegated to an even lower position through the remarks passed on them in *Khabardaar*. What is done in the name of humour is sheer insult of the working class community, which includes barbers, butchers, cobblers, and labourers. In one of the shows telecast on April 9, 2016, Honey Albela in the character of a butcher asks a customer who is made to look poor, “*tusi vi goshtlena e yachhichhRe*” (Are you also here to buy meat or the leftovers?). By looking at his clothes and the overall appearance the butcher assumes that the person cannot afford to buy meat. Instead of sympathizing with that poor person, he makes him the target of deprecating humour.

Neighbouring Countries

The humour that the comedians employ in *Khabardaar* is not just limited to ridiculing their own country but also extends to the neighbouring countries which can lead to the emergence of conflicts rather than resolving them. In one of the segments titled: *Ibn-e-batuta*, Aftab Iqbal takes the audience to a virtual tour of a certain country. In this segment sometimes, the vegetarian dishes of some of the countries that the host introduces are used for creating humour that is targeted at countries where people are mostly vegetarians. In the show telecast on January 29, 2016 while the host was introducing some of the delicacies of Nepal which are purely made of herbs, vegetables, beans and bamboo shoots, Honey Albela comments “*Nepal ikGhariibmulk e othaysher vi sabzikaande ne*” (Nepal is a poor country where even lions eat vegetables). At another point in the same segment, another comedian comments on the ingredients of one of the dishes the host was talking about, saying: “*Sir me~ kasamchukkekennava~ ae bot Ghariib ne*” (Sir I swear they are very poor). Honey Albela adds further: “*aeDeGhariib ne keaenakollobia vi e tekaala ae eDeGhariib ne keenakol laal lobia vi nai e.*” (They are so poor that they have black beans. So poor are they that they do not even have red beans).

In our culture, people love to eat meat and consuming meat is considered a sign of being affluent. However, this is not the case in every society. There are many countries where a vast majority of people are vegetarians and Nepal is one such country. Ridiculing any society because of the consumption of

vegetarian food does not make any sense and can be seen as an instance of extreme form of injustice and discrimination. The comedians passed several comments on the country's economy without even thinking for a second that Pakistan's economic position is not stable either as there has been an increase in the number of people living below the poverty line in the last few years in Pakistan.

Lack of Proficiency in English

Just as proficiency in English is seen as a sign of being educated and refined, lack of proficiency in it is equated with lack of sophistication and refinement in Pakistani context, and therefore people who cannot speak fluent English become the recipient of insult through disparaging humour in our society. One example is that of the Pakistani celebrity Meera, whose English is frequently targeted in different comedy shows and *Khabardar* is no exception. Although Meera's English is the target in many programmes, *Khabardaris* is one step ahead of other comedy programmes in this regard, as Honey Albela often mimics Meera's style of speaking and makes fun of her English. In every other show of *Khabardar*, he suddenly switches to 'Meera mode' and the audience approves of it as evident through their response in the form of laughter. It is not just the comedians who through their discourse promote the linguistic hegemony of English but the audience's reaction does the same which is in a way an endorsement of the concept of linguistic inequality witnessed in multilingual countries, especially the ones with colonial history. It is true that Pakistan, being a postcolonial country, cannot neglect English as it also enjoys official status in the country, but it is equally true that the glorification of English at the expense of the national and indigenous languages has led to a class divide in the country and disparaging humour targeting people's inability to speak English is one such example.

Mughal History

Besides criticizing people on the basis of their appearance, ethnicity, lack of limited proficiency in English and low socio-economic position, Mughal emperors are also made the target of deprecating humour in the show. Not only do the comedians make fun of the Mughals but the host of the show also speaks against them. The expression of negative attitude towards the Muslim rulers in a Muslim country seems to serve the purpose of tarnishing the image of all the Mughal emperors not only in the eyes of the non-Muslims but also in the eyes of the young Muslim generation. The act the comedians perform to portray Mughal period is an obliteration of the dignity and the power the Mughals enjoyed during their reign. One example of the humiliation of the

Mughals through the use of disparaging humour can be witnessed in the show telecast on 20th of April, 2016 in which Honey Albelia as Shehzaada Saleem says: “*aksar me haathi nu abba ji keh de nava~*” (I often call the elephant my father). In the same act while looking at the maids he says: “*bakria~ haardiya~ kaniza~ rehgayya~ ne*” (Only goat like maids are left). In the first utterance, he insults his father by comparing him to his elephant because of his size while in the second utterance he insults the maids by comparing them with goats. This kind of discourse is not in accordance with the dignity and the status of any of the Mughals as the Mughals used to employ a highly sophisticated and formal language. Even their servants were trained to use highly refined language. Instead of highlighting the accomplishments of the Mughal emperors, the comedians including the host of the programme present a negative image of them.

Conclusion

After analysing instances of humour used in *Khabardaar* within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis, it is evident that the humour employed in this comedy show is promoting the notion of inequality by further marginalizing the suppressed. Moreover, the humour used for ridiculing the historical figures and the contemporary societies is demeaning. There should be a comprehensive media policy based on strict adherence to ethics in order to discourage this kind of deprecating or tendentious humour. The study being limited in its scope was restricted to the analysis of verbal humour only in one comedy programme. A large-scale study using content analysis can be conducted on the nature of tendentious humour employed in other comedy shows on different Pakistani channels in future. Besides analyzing the nature of humour in comedy shows, a survey can also be conducted to find out people’s reaction to such humour to be able to discover how it affects their perception of the individuals and groups that are targeted through such deprecating humour.

It is evident through this research that media have the power to influence people’s thoughts and know how and when to promote a certain ideology. People unconsciously begin to endorse the ideas that media project and reject those that media disapprove of. This ideological manipulation that media perform takes place in such a subtle manner that people do not even realize that their way of perceiving reality has been transformed. Moreover, this transformation takes place more rapidly through the use of humour than through any other means.

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- Note:** All the instances of humour analyzed in the paper are taken from different episodes of *Khabardar* downloaded from www.playit.pk.

Age and Gender as Predictors of Psychological Well-Being

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Abstract

The current study was designed to explore the potential relationship of psychological well-being with age and gender. A sample of 400 individuals, representative of both genders (men=185 & women=215 within an age range of 17 to 50 years) was drawn from various colleges and universities of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. Ryff's (1989) psychological well-being scale (middle version consisting of 54 items) was used as a tool to collect the relevant information. According to the results, gender accounted for significant variation in psychological well-being. Men outperformed women on four of six dimensions of psychological well-being (i.e., environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy, and purpose in life). However, no significant gender differences were found on the aspects of positive relations with others and self-acceptance that indicates that, on average, men and women are alike in these dimensions. A strong relationship was also observed between age and psychological well-being attesting psychological well-being as dependent on age.

Keywords: Psychological well-being; Dimensions; Gender difference, Age

Introduction

The literature on psychological well-being has made considerable progress since the emergence of the field over fifty years ago. Recent surveys reveal that mental health experts including psychologists have focused enormously on various conditions that are likely to influence psychological well-being (eudaimonic) or subjective well-being (hedonic). The science of well-being attempts to discover what makes life satisfying or unsatisfying (Miller & Kelly, 2005). Given the well-being's central role in producing flourishing societies, a substantial body of research has searched for the factors contributing to well-being (Dambrun & Ricard, 2011). In addition to that, investigators/ theorists have viewed psychological well-being in different ways though psychological wellness generally indicates how people assess their lives. Diener, Oishi, and Lucas (2003, 2015) reported elements of cognition and affect. The cognitive element means evaluating the whole life in terms of amount of satisfaction one derives from it. The affective aspect hints at moods, emotions, and feelings (hedonic-subjective). One's affect

impacts his/her cognitive evaluation. For example, whatever present mood we are experiencing can influence our judgments. Bradburn (1969) thought of psychological well-being as the proper balance between positive affect (PA) and negative affect (NA).

Carol Ryff (1989) has viewed well-being a dynamic, multidimensional concept that is composed of subjective, psychological, and social components. Her concept of well-being differs from that of subjective well-being, or hedonic well-being. Psychological well-being seems to be more stable than subjective well-being which may fluctuate according to life experiences. Ryff made an effort to integrate various conceptions of psychological well-being prevalent from the period of ancient Greeks until the modern era (e.g., Jung's theory of individuation, Maslow's theory of self-actualization, etc) and defined psychological well-being in terms of dimensions of self-acceptance, autonomy, environmental mastery, purpose in life, positive relations with others, and personal growth (Ryff, 1989). These factors give a boost to resilience too, by mitigating a person's reactions to hostile situations, and keep folks energetic, zealous and occupied. Self-acceptance refers to acceptance of who you really are. It is a central component of psychological health. Autonomy hints at independence of thought and action; ability to refuse to give in to social pressures. Environmental mastery is, by and large, indicative of the individual's capability to manage complex environments; developing awareness of the surrounding opportunities and using them more efficiently. Personal growth refers to a sense of constant personal development; to realize one's potentials and weaknesses, rather than hiding behind them; and to discover what is holding us back from achieving optimal growth potential. The component of positive relations with others explains the importance of positive and supportive/productive relationships with other beings. Purpose in life indicates one's need to determine the real purpose of life; a sense of directedness. It also includes attaching a meaning to the existing and past periods of life, holding such beliefs that make life really purposeful.

Does well-being vary in relation to age and gender? There are studies which have attempted to find a relationship between age, gender, and psychological well-being. For example, in prior research on Malaysian students, investigators (Yusoff & Rahim, 2010; Zulkefli & Baharudin, 2010) reported noticeably low degree of psychological well-being among the Malaysian undergraduate university students (who were likely to be younger when compared to graduate students). In another research work on students from master's and PhD programs, Yang (2010) found that doctoral candidates,

irrespective of differing cultural backgrounds they were from, reported high well-being (less stress) than those who were pursuing master's degree. Because the doctoral students are generally considered older (senior) than the students from master's classes, this finding indicates positive influence of increasing age on well-being though the level of education may also be a factor in enhancing well-being (it needs to mention here that Yang's study was based on a different well-being instrument).

Gender has also been shown as an important predictor in impacting one's psychological well-being. However, previous studies have yielded inconsistent findings in this regard. Pinquart and Sorensen's (2001) meta-analysis, which comprised individuals from various age groups including adolescents, adults, and older persons, demonstrated no significant gender differences in psychological well-being. Other investigators (Ruini, Ottolini, Rafanelli, Tossani, & Fava, 2003; Kaplan, Shema, & Leiti, 2008), however, maintained that men and women are not alike with respect to well-being construct. Ruini and co-researchers conducted a study on an Italian sample using Ryff's psychological well-being inventory and noted that Italian female participants of this sample were not as good as men in most aspects of psychological well-being. Contrary to what Ruini et al. (2003) found, Kaplan and co-workers showed that women scored significantly higher on personal growth than men. On the other hand, Ryff and Keyes's (1995) study that was carried out in the United States with the aim to examine gender differences, women reported higher scores in the dimension of positive relations but no significant differences emerged in any other aspect of psychological well-being.

In a nutshell, it is evident from above literature review that studies on well-being and demographics have shown a wide range of diversity. However, by and large, age and gender have shown association with psychological well-being.

Rationale of the Study

Positive Psychology is the scientific study of the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and societies to prosper. This field is founded on the notion that everyone aspires to live meaningful and fulfilling life, to make fullest use of abilities he/she holds. This branch of psychology brings attention to the possibility that focusing exclusively on the disease model (of human functioning) could result in a limited (and partial) understanding of an individual's condition. This viewpoint is quite similar to various empirical

models that Vaillant (2012) outlined while discussing different definitions of mental health, all of which emphasized positive aspects only. For instance, he asserted that mental health refers to the existence of multiple human capacities rather than absence of weaknesses. Similarly, expression of pleasant/positive emotions, or resilient behavior also indicate healthy mind.

Topics that have caught attention of positive psychology researchers are many including virtues, strengths (e.g., spirituality, hope, wisdom, flourishing and life satisfaction/well-being), as well as the ways how these can be strengthened by institutions and social systems. Empirical researches are under way to get clarity about the predictors of optimal functioning and well-being. Moreover, the role of demographics in enhancing well-being cannot be underestimated. However, existing literature review highlights inconsistency/contradiction in the findings in this respect. Some researchers assert that psychological well-being has nothing to do with gender, while others believe that both are related (as mentioned in the introductory section). Likewise, theorists and research scholars differ as regards whether age affects psychological well-being. All these facts provided a compelling reason to undertake a study in order to explore and develop better understanding of the impact of demographic factors on psychological well-being in Pakhtun culture. This work would add largely to the existing empirical body of research on the relation between psychological well-being and demographics.

Research Objectives

Keeping in view the theoretical and empirical linkage between psychological well-being and demographic variables such as age and gender, as mentioned above, the major purpose of the current study was to examine the inter-correlations among psychological well-being, age, and gender.

Hypotheses

Based on prior research on age and gender, the following hypotheses have been tested.

1. Men will get higher scores than women on the psychological well-being aspects of autonomy and personal growth.
2. Women will display higher scores than men on the psychological well-being aspect of positive relations with others.
3. Age is predicted to be positively associated with psychological well-being (total and aspects).

METHOD

Sample

A sample of 400 adolescents and adults including 185 men and 215 women, aged 17-50 ($M = 26.095$; $SD = 8.59$) enrolled in various courses of humanities, pure science, social science, agriculture, and engineering, at various universities and other educational institutions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, took part in this study. Participants were recruited through purposive sampling technique. Mean age of the men was higher (26.89; 8.89) than women (25.41; 8.28). The participation was voluntary and for this purpose, the subjects had to show their willingness in writing. After that, they were given a demographic questionnaire to indicate some personal information relating to age, education, occupation, and social class. Finally, they completed the self-report inventory on psychological well-being as described below.

Measure

Psychological Well-Being Scale

Researchers and theorists have concentrated much on psychological well-being because of its huge impact on one's quality of life. This construct was measured with the help of Scales of Psychological Well-Being developed by Ryff (1989). It is a six point Likert-type-scale containing 54 statements. The scale covers six domains of psychological wellness including self-acceptance, personal growth, purpose in life, positive relations with others, environmental mastery, and autonomy. Each area is assessed by 9 positive and negative items. According to Ryff (1989) the internal consistency of the scale, for all six dimensions, is above .80, whereas alpha coefficients from 0.659 to 0.828 were obtained in the current study. The highest possible score for each subscale/aspect is 54 and for the entire scale of psychological well-being, it is 324.

Procedure

This study was carried out to establish the relationship of psychological well-being with age and gender among student population from various colleges and universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All the subjects were contacted beforehand and assured with regard to confidentiality of their responses. After obtaining informed consent from them, personal information sheet was administered on the entire sample to get information relating to demographic profile of each of them. Later, the scale of psychological well-being was handed over to the subjects along with written instructions which were also verbally explained.

Results

Table-1

Descriptive Statistics for Age and Psychological Well-Being (N=400)

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age	26.095	8.588
Positive Relations with Others	43.0475	8.0304
Environmental Mastery	39.285	7.643
Personal Growth	36.933	12.995
Autonomy	36.170	13.057
Self-Acceptance	41.415	7.729
Purpose in Life	42.730	7.924
Overall Psychological Well-Being	239.28	50.234

The mean age of the respondents was 26.095 with standard deviation of 8.588. Results with regard to mean scores indicate that the subjects obtained highest mean score on the well-being aspect of positive relations with others (43.048) with SD = 8.030, and lowest on autonomy (36.170) with SD = 13.057, which may be attributed to the collectivistic nature of culture which, in fact, downplays independence and endorses dependence on a core group of people, strengthening the relationships that keep the collectivist society intact. In such a society, mostly, parental control plays an important role in determining the youth's activities.

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics of Psychological Well-Being by Gender (N=400)

	Gender	Mean	Std. Deviation	n
Positive Relations –with others	Female	42.930	8.101	215
	Male	43.184	7.9672	185
Environmental Mastery	Female	38.247	7.506	215
	Male	40.492	7.644	185
Personal Growth	Female	34.693	12.238	215
	Male	39.535	13.392	185
Autonomy	Female	33.949	12.037	215
	Male	38.751	13.737	185
Self-Acceptance	Female	40.744	7.432	215
	Male	42.195	8.011	185
Purpose in Life	Female	41.781	7.445	215
	Male	43.832	8.331	185
Total Psychological Well-Being	Female	231.97	47.099	215
	Male	247.78	52.506	185

Table 2 shows that men were ahead of women in a number of well-being aspects. As can be seen, mean score of men on environmental mastery was 40.492 (SD = 7.644) and that of women was 38.247 (SD = 7.506). Mean score of men on personal growth was 39.535 (SD = 13.392) and that of women was 34.693 (SD = 12.238). Mean score of men on the aspect of autonomy was 38.751 (SD = 13.737) and that of women was 33.949 (SD = 12.037). Mean score of men on the aspect of purpose in life was 43.832 (SD = 8.331) and that of women was 41.781 (SD = 7.445). Mean score of men on the aspect of total well-being was 247.78 (SD = 52.506) whereas that of women was 231.97 (SD = 47.099).

Table 3*Tests of Between-Subjects Effects (N= 400)*

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Gender	Positive Relations with Others	6.393	1	6.393	.099	.753
	Environmental Mastery	501.337	1	501.337	8.748	.003
	Personal Growth	2331.416	1	2331.416	14.265	.000
	Autonomy	2293.441	1	2293.441	13.887	.000
	Self-Acceptance	209.185	1	209.185	3.524	.061
	Purpose in Life	418.309	1	418.309	6.758	.010
	Total Psychological Well-Being	24857.954	1	24857.954	10.075	.002

Table-3 shows that the dependent variables of environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy, purpose in life, and overall psychological well-being differed significantly in respect of the independent variable of gender. Men showed higher scores in all of the differences that emerged (see Table 2). However, well-being aspects such as positive relations with others, and self-acceptance did not differ in relation to gender.

Table-4

Inter-correlations among Psychological Well-Being Scale, its Aspects, and Age

		Age	Pos. Relations	Env. Mastery	Pers. Growth	Aut	Self- Accept	Purpose in Life	Total Well- Being
Age	Pearson	1							
	Correlation								
	Sig. (2-tailed)								
	N	400							
Pos. Relations	Pearson	.246**	1						
	Correlation								
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000							
	N	400	400						
Env. Mastery	Pearson	.408**	.821**	1					
	Correlation								
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000						
	N	400	400	400					
Pers. Growth	Pearson	.311**	.494**	.736**	1				
	Correlation								
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000					
	N	400	400	400	400				
Aut	Pearson	.292**	.503**	.733**	.979**	1			
	Correlation								
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000				
	N	400	400	400	400	400			
Self- Accept	Pearson	.235**	.917**	.826**	.542**	.559*	1		
	Correlation					*			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000			
	N	400	400	400	400	400	400		
Purpose in Life	Pearson	.213**	.907**	.808**	.486**	.498*	.928**	1	
	Correlation					*			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		
	N	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	
Total Well- Being	Pearson	.330**	.829**	.921**	.871**	.877*	.861**	.824**	1
	Correlation					*			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Note: Read Pos. Relations as Positive Relations with Others, Env. Mastery as Environmental Mastery, Pers. Growth as Personal Growth, Aut as Autonomy, and Self-Accept as Self-Acceptance.

Table 4 reveals the correlations among age, psychological well-being (total) and its dimensions. From these results, significant positive correlations were found among age, overall psychological well-being, and all aspects.

Discussion

The goal of current study was to examine the pattern of relationships among psychological well-being, gender, and age. This study used Psychological Well-Being Scale which was developed by Ryff (1989). The correlations among the aspects of psychological well-being were statistically significant. The present findings are discussed below.

Gender wise variation in psychological well-being was supported by the data. Men tended to score significantly higher not only on the dimensions of personal growth and autonomy (as predicted) but also on the environmental mastery, purpose in life, as well as on overall psychological well-being (see Table 2 and 3). The differences were found to be statistically significant. However, no gender related differences were reported for the aspects of positive relations with others (contrary to hypothesis 2) and self-acceptance suggesting that the psychological well-being of men and women in these areas is comparable. These findings show consistency with prior mixed results that have been noted in various studies on well-being. For instance, Fuller, Edwards, Vorakitphokatorn, and Sermsri (2004) stressed that, just as in the United States, married men in the city of Bangkok too, have generally exhibited higher psychological wellness compared to married women. As the present work has chosen students as its sample, not married individuals in particular, therefore, it is better to focus on other studies. There are researchers who found no gender differences in terms of predicting autonomy (e.g., Allen, Hauser, Bell, & O'Connor, 1994), while Dornbusch, Ritter, Mont-Reynaud, and Chen (1990) have shown that women scored lower than men on this component and exactly the same was found in Perez's (2012) study on Pilipino sample, lending support to the present results on autonomy. Ryff and Keys (1995) reported no difference in the components of personal growth and environmental mastery between men and women which contradicts the present results. It has to be kept in mind that most of these prior studies were conducted in the developed western countries where discrimination against women is not that common or obvious. Therefore, it

may be true to say that the current findings are in line with cultural beliefs with regard to gender roles, and suggest that as women lack an equal status in a male-dominated society, this factor might have affected their scores on psychological well-being scale.

As gender roles reflect the society's concepts about how women and men are supposed (expected) to behave, therefore these roles are affected by the prevailing cultural norms. In Pukhtun culture, masculine roles are generally associated with dominance, strength, aggression, while feminine roles are connected with nurturing, subordination, and passivity. Cross-cultural literature indicates that children develop awareness about gender roles at very early age, around 2 to 5, and most of them firmly stick to the gender roles that are considered culturally appropriate (Kane, 1996). Parents often provide their sons with toy guns, trucks and other mechanical and active toys, the use of which promotes a greater sense of independence in boys, give them confidence about their hidden capacities (motor, etc), and make them to focus more on their individual development and personal achievements. The male members of society, as a result, develop a strong feeling or belief about themselves (sense of directedness) and become clear regarding life goals (and get committed to them) giving support to the functionalist perspective that men are inclined to pursue practical goals which make them more competitive and task-oriented compared to women.

This all contributes immensely to the strengthening of such personal traits as autonomy, personal growth, environmental mastery, purposefulness, and the like, among men. Such a culture-based scenario might be a powerful factor for the kind of results this study reveals with reference to boys in the matter of psychological well-being. These results give partial support to the evolutionary theory too. Geary, Byrd-Craven, Hoard, Vigil, and Numtee (2003), for example, stressed that men are mastery-oriented; they would like to choose a challenging task and face it competently (confirmation of present finding) while females are predisposed to form close interpersonal relationships marked by attention and care, which partly confirms the current result (contrary to what Geary and co-researchers stated, present study indicates that both men and women are almost equally high in the aspect of positive relations revealing their trust in close connections between individuals formed by mutual interactions and emotional bonds. It also means that men and women, all, may like to act in an acceptable manner which helps in developing and maintaining good relationships with those around).

In the same way, no gender difference is reported in the aspect of self-acceptance and both men and women have obtained relatively high mean scores on it which gives the impression as if they're satisfied with self, showing no displeasure about past experiences or certain personality aspects. It may also be argued that they both accept themselves as they actually are, and say yes to their lives (joyfully). It seems that perceived self and actual self-come closer to each other with the departure of teen age period as has been emphasized in different religions. Another explanation may be that, being students (regardless of age and gender), the main concern of male and female population is to set career goals which impel them look forward to and achieve success, rather than thinking negatively about the weaknesses/limitations they possess.

To establish the relationship of age with psychological well-being (total and aspects), correlations of the variables with age were computed (Table 4). Comparing the scores on psychological well-being with that of age, the present results pointed out that the individuals' level of psychological well-being (subscale wise and overall scores) changes significantly over time. Therefore, it can be concluded that, as people age, they have better well-being in comparison to the younger ones. These results are consistent with some past studies (e.g., Consedine & Magai, 2006; Martire, Stephens, & Townsend, 2000; Kaplan et al., 2008; Ryff & Singer, 2008; Walker, 2009). The same has been highlighted in a report that got published in a journal of Association for Psychological Science (2013). This report reveals that feelings of well-being increase with age, however it depends on the time period when one was born. Longitudinal research (using different measures to assess well-being) has also revealed that most people get very well adjusted during adulthood and show decline in neuroticism, and negative affect and an increase in positive affect (Ready, Åkerstedt & Mroczek, 2012). Similarly, using data from longitudinal studies on personality and social development, Kokko, Rantanen & Pulkkinen (2015) assessed relationship between mental health and personality traits of individuals at ages 33/36 up to 50, and found that the developmental course with regard to neuroticism and extraversion in middle-aged adults (compared to the younger ones) shows similarity with that of psychological well-being, that is, more than 80 percent of the respondents who were high in the aspect of extraversion or low in neuroticism, reported high psychological well-being. Vaillant's (1977) study suggests that as age increases, men tend to become more skilled in using coping mechanisms. However, women show high confidence level, and learn better coping mechanism after late adolescence (Helson and Wink, 1992).

Data collected by Terracciano, Costa, and McCrae (2006) in a longitudinal work, spanning over 42 years, indicated that, overall, emotional stability improves up to 70 years and after that it decreases slightly while healthy relations keep on increasing up to 50 years and decrease afterwards. Freund and Blanchard-Fields (2014) found that the scores on overall well-being and component of personal growth were significantly higher for two groups of students with age range 24 to 28 and 34 to 38 years than those ranging in age from 19 to 23 years. Similarly, Bowmen (2010) maintained that, normally, with advancing age, the level of students' sense of psychological well-being also increases. So it can be said that with every passing year, persons grow, meaning that they show more mature behaviour and know quite well how to keep their cool, maintain emotional balance, and perform well even under pressure/ stressful circumstances. They tend to think more clearly and thoroughly.

Conclusion, Limitations, and Future Directions

The present study confirms the relation of psychological well-being to gender and age. Men scored higher than women not only on overall psychological well-being, but also on four of six components including the environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy, and purpose in life. These results might be indicative of gender socialization (differentiating socialization process) that starts from very early age and goes in favor of boys in some cultures including conservative Pakhtun society. The findings of this study also reveal that psychological well-being and age correlate positively. With increasing age, experience and knowledge expand which put adult individuals at an advantageous position. They perform better especially in regard to handling the pressures of life and other well-being domains. Since the entire sample of this study was comprised educated individuals only, the institution-based education might be one of the elements contributing to well-being. Therefore it is recommended that future studies should focus on educated vs. uneducated (or non-college educated) samples. Another limitation of the current study is its cross-sectional nature. In such researches people from different sections of life are selected and studied concurrently. These studies are not causal or relational. Rather they are observational in nature and unable to examine cause-and-effect bond between different variables. To answer the question whether psychological well-being and age positively relate to each other, longitudinal studies need to be conducted by employing subjects who differ widely in experience, opportunities, and education.

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Gender Inequality and Construction of Identity in ELT Scenario

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Abstract

The paper focuses on male and female learners' notion of symbolic capital for construction of identity in Pakistani society where gender inequality leads to low investment on daughters' education. This research answers following questions: 1. Does gender discrimination exist in different social classes? 2. How does low investment on daughters' physical capital affect male and female English language learners' struggle for construction of identity? We used triangulation method to collect the data. One government and one private college (male and female each) were selected in two districts of Punjab. Thirty-two male and female low and high scorers studying at intermediate level and their parents were interviewed. We observed their homes. The results of college exams of class were analysed through SPSS¹. The findings suggest that in spite of low investment on daughters' physical capital, the female students showed their commitment to build their identity.

Keywords: Gender; Discrimination; Parents; English language learning; Social class

Introduction

Gender is seen as a socially constructed system by the researchers. This paper argues the sustainability of social stigma that can generate discrimination in social capital investment. The issue of gender inequality and the concept of symbolic capital generate complexity of relationship between gender, language, power and identity. Language not only helps in communication but also helps in construction and deconstruction of identity in society. Similarly, there is a strong relation between language and power. Norton Pierce (1995) states that the conception of investment signals the relationship of the female to the target language and their eagerness to learn that language. Instead of instrumental motivation, we advocate the notion of symbolic capital and its role in construction of identity.

This research is a comparative study of male and female students of intermediate classes studying at the government and the private colleges in Multan and Lahore districts in Pakistan. The two types of colleges suggest the

social class diversity and the parents' choice of colleges for the children. The discrimination in investment of the parents on their male and female children's education reflects gender inequality in society. This research demonstrates the comparative view of physical and symbolic capital. To acquire symbolic resources such as language and education, the female students' better performance in exams shows their desire to acquire symbolic resources such as language and education and for construction of their identity.

1. SPSS: Statistical Package of Social Sciences
2. This paper is partially taken from PhD research carried out at Department of English, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

The Nature and Significance of the Study

The study investigates gender inequality affecting attitudes of the learners towards English language learning. It also relates the increasing value of investment on language learning under the influence of global role of the language. The male and female students' struggle for their identity in the global world is also concern of this research. Moreover, this research is a comparison between the government and the private institutions in the two districts of the Punjab; Lahore and Multan.

Literature Review

The term "identity" refers to self-awareness (Leary & Tangney, 2003). The concept of social identity was developed by Tajfel (1972) who defines this concept as a realization of an individual being a member of a certain social group. According to social identity theory, people categorize themselves according to various social stratifications (Tajfel and Turner: 1985). There exists variation in social behavior from interpersonal group to intergroup behavior. Intrinsic motivation drives individuals to achieve positive distinctiveness and to associate themselves with a particular group. This association with a particular group offers them identity and self-esteem. Sociolinguistics concerns itself with question of language and identity (Harris, 2006). Simon (2004) argues that social identity arises with the focus on self-aspect that can be a belief, a symbol or physical or psychological trait. The changes in the social context threaten identity of the individual when these changes threaten individual's self-esteem, self-efficacy and distinctiveness from others (Breakwell, 1992; Brewer, 1991). Identity is thus context specific. The construction of identity on the basis of language is a complex process which involves attitudes of the society towards a language.

The negative evaluation of one's identity leads to the use of language that symbolizes positive identity. The association with a particular group depends on the power and prestige the members of groups are enjoying. Social construction of reality is based on the choice of language accepted by the society.

We will relate identity with a new concept of investment constructed by Norton (2000, 2010) that refers to learners' desire to use the language constructed by the society. This is an investment in learners' own social identity. According to Pavlenko (2000), L2 users' linguistic, social and cultural identities construct their agencies and investments in language learning. Poststructuralists view language practice as a social capital. Bourdieu has argued that the "dominant language" is the language of "dominant classes". The relation between language and power is significant. English has acquired the status of high prestige language. English language has acquired high status in Pakistani society. According to Rahman (2003), English has been strongly established in the domains of power in Pakistan since 1947. English language is indispensable for those who want to enter the network of power. Globalisation has also increased the value of English language learning. Bourdieu describes power in terms "Symbolic Capital". This power is perceived as legitimate demand for recognition (Swartz, 1997).

Cultural stereotypes are engrained in both men and women. Gender roles are constructed in society. Hyde (2005) observed that children suffer the consequences of gender stereotypes. She further claims that these gender differences can hurt women's self-esteem. Until the 1980s the scholars have been discussing the sex-based language varieties. Tannen (1994) also talks about gendered language for it involves male and female culture. But Crawford (1995) and Freed (1992) criticize her approach towards the issue of gender for neglecting the issue of power. The shift in research from social constructionism towards post modernism consequently focuses on gender as a discursive and social construction (e.g., Bergvall et al. 1996; Cameron, 2005). Various studies point towards the difference in gendered approach to linguistic market. Trudgill (1972) argues that women necessarily use symbolic means to strengthen their position through professional achievement. Eckert (1998) views that Bourdieu and Boltanski's (1975) notion of symbolic capital looks to the significance of symbolic capital for successful functioning in different parts of society. Eckert's (1998) study concludes that women collect symbolic capital and men dominate material capital.

In her studies on language and identity, Norton (2010) concentrates on “identity and investment”. In her support to Bourdieu’s idea of replacing “motivation” with “identity”, she hypothesizes that learners’ investment in the target language is linked with the learners’ desire to learn the language and their changing identity. Norton (2000) in her “construct of investment” argues that language learning process will be facilitated if the language learner views the presumed identity in the new language as of greater value/power. According to Norton & Toohey (2002), the language acquisition can be enhanced when the learners make an effort to attain more powerful identities. Bucholtz and Hall (2004) assert that “identities are forged in action rather than fixed in categories” (p. 376). Morita’s (2004) research on language and identity also shows that L2 learners’ involvement is linked with their identity, competence, power, access and agency. Similarly, Toohey (2005) also finds that the success in L2 learning is a matter of “identity construction”. Norton (2013) argues that the learners’ investment in the target language helps them to acquire symbolic and material resources. This increases the value of their cultural capital, social power and identity. The construct of investment is related with what Bourdieu calls cultural capital. Investment is a sociological construct. Concepts such as power and knowledge exhibit the presence of power relations in language learning. This emerging concept of power in relation to language learning brings into light the need for critical pedagogies in language education (Norton & Toohey, 2004). Norton (2000) reconceptualises L2 learning by defining it as “the right to speak”. The poststructuralists advocate that L2 learning can become a platform for advocating social justice through critical pedagogy (Norton Pierce, 1995; Pavlenko & Blackledge, 2004b). Similarly, Davis et al. (2005) are of the view that the marginalized can be empowered through and in L2 learning.

Research Questions

The following questions are addressed in this study:

1. Does gender discrimination exist in different social classes in Multan and Lahore?
2. How does low investment on daughters’ physical capital affect male and female English language learners’ attitude towards English language learning?
3. How do the male and female students’ struggle for construction of identity

Research Setting, Methods and Analysis

This is a comparative study of the government and private colleges in Multan and Lahore districts of the Punjab. The descriptive and empirical research helped me to study the phenomena. The study is a comparison at many levels such as government vs. private, male vs. female and Lahore vs. Multan. This is a comparison of the learners' struggle for learning who belonged to low and high social classes studying at the government and private colleges. The comparison of the male and female learners showed the gender representation in the study. Both Lahore and Multan are the two big cities of the Punjab. Lahore is considered more progressive and cosmopolitan city as compared to Multan. The objective behind the comparison was to see the differences and similarities in the cultural practices and language learning attitudes of the male and female learners and their parents in both cities.

With permission of the Principals, Heads of the Departments, English teachers and with the consent of the students, we selected colleges for data collection. One male and one female government and private colleges each were selected in Multan and Lahore districts. Intermediate class consisted of two years' education i.e. first and second year. The students of intermediate classes (first and second year) of humanities group were selected as participants. The intermediate level is the beginning of college education in Pakistan. Those who study humanities are considered low motivated as compared to those who study sciences. The purpose behind selection of humanities group was to study attitudes of the students and their struggle for identity in the global world. Thus the colleges offering humanities subjects were selected. The number of students was forty in each class at both types of colleges in both districts. The students were already divided in sections including high and low scorers in secondary examination. The sampling in the section was already done randomly.

We used triangulation method to study the phenomenon. We used the following research tools:

1. Semi-structured observation of eight male and eight female students' homes (low and high scorers)
2. Face to face semi-structured interviews of parents (sixteen: of low and high scorers)
3. Face to face semi-structured interviews of the students (eight low and eight high scorers)
4. Analysis of result of college tests in the subject of English on SPSS
By semi-structured, we mean that we not only prepared checklist but

also noted the learning activities during class and home observation. The qualitative data was analysed through interpretation and cross references.

Findings

The analysis of the interview data suggests that the students studying at the government colleges belonged to the low social class and the students studying at the private colleges belonged to the high social class in both districts. The analysis of home observation suggests that the female students from high social class were studying humanities subjects whereas their brothers were studying science subjects. The female students from low social class were studying humanities subjects at the government colleges whereas their brothers were studying science subjects at the private colleges. The high and low male scorers from high and low social class were studying humanities subjects either because they were low motivated or they could not get admission in science subjects.

Here we will share experiences from home observation and interviews with the parents and the students. The male students from lower social class were provided with the resources for learning English language. The provision of room or place to study at home was one of the resources. Some of the parents also sent their male child to educational academies to get extra tuition for certain period of time to improve their English language skills. The tuition fee and the cost of travel from home to the tuition center were no issues for the parents because the investment on the male child's education particularly on learning English language skills was part of social capital. The family investment should affect the students' achievement in school (Coleman, 1990).

Here we will share some excerpts from interviews with parents.

“The parents of high social class spend more money on providing educational resources to their children...” [*Interview in Urdu with a mother (of low scorer male student from private college in Multan) from high social class*]

“Access to resources makes the difference in quality in education” [*Interview in English with a literate father (of a high scorer female student from the private college in Lahore) from high social class*]

“Joining academy was necessity for my son so I sent him to academy for tuition in the subject of English” [*Interview in Urdu with a father*]

(of low scorer male student studying at the government college for men in Lahore) from low social class]

“My son is brilliant and to make his future bright I am spending money on his education... I wish he could get good job in future” [Interview in Urdu with a literate father of a low scorer male studying at the government college for men in Multan]

“Boys should get higher education to get jobs in future. Girls should get education enough to teach their children” [Interview in Urdu with an illiterate mother of a high scorer male student studying at the government college for men in Multan]

The majority of the female students were not sent to attend educational academy because either the academies were away from the homes or the parents could not pay tuition fee. The mothers were of the view that education was important for the daughters for better prospects of their marriages.

Following are some excerpts from interviews of the students and the parents taken at their homes. The parents expressed the view that they did not discriminate between the sons and the daughters for their education.

“My father forced me to study humanities subjects... I wished to study at Kinnared college but papa (father) says that my cousins are studying in this college and it is quite near to my house...I feel less motivated now...” [Interview in Urdu with a female high scorer from high social class studying at the government college in Lahore]

Whereas, her father claimed to be supportive of his daughter.

“I am supportive to my daughter as I am to my sons....she is free in her choice of subjects...” [Interview in Urdu with a father of the female high scorer from high social class studying at the government college in Lahore]

“My son chooses subjects and the college according to his own choice...” [Interview in Urdu with a father with little schooling (of low scorer male student studying at the government college for men in Multan) from low social class]

“I share room with my family so can’t study at night” [Interview in Urdu with a female low scorer from low social class studying at the government college for men in Multan]

The male and the female students expressed their desire to learn English language which has become marker of educated social class. This concept of new identity leads them to learn English language. Here we will write the translated version of some excerpts from interviews of the male and female students.

“Learning of English language is indispensable for getting job”
[*Interview in Urdu with a high scorer male student studying at the government college in Multan*]

“My cousins speak English language confidently. It’s a marker of identity in a society” [Interview in Urdu with a female high scorer studying at the government college for women in Lahore]

Now we will share the numbers of male and female students from Multan and Lahore and percentages of their marks in send ups.

Government and Private Male and Female Colleges in both Districts	Female (Multan & Lahore) 1 st and 2 nd year	Male (Multan & Lahore) 1 st and 2 nd year
Frequency of students	275	265
Average Marks in send ups	52.97	49.53

Table 1: Number of students and average marks in send ups

The data analysed through SPSS in above given table shows that average marks of female students in English are higher as compared to those of the female male students in both Districts. The parents’ low investment on the education of the female students and their better performance in exams shows the tendency of the female students to collect symbolic capital. Whereas the parents’ investment on their sons suggests the use of physical capital for the prospect of getting it back in future. Though both the male and female students desired to collect symbolic capital but the parents’ unequal distribution of physical capital on their sons and daughters reflect the gender inequality in the society. The female students’ silence on this unequal distribution is the result of the social norms set by the male dominated society. The better performance of the female students can be result of resistance to inequitable social norms or desire to be identified as an educated person. The conception of social identity as a site of struggle helps to struggle for learning English. This is also mediated by resistance to unscrupulous social practice.

Conclusion

Gender inequalities are socially constructed. This study reinforces the gender disparities being practiced in Pakistani society. The low investment on daughters' human capital discriminated them from their brothers. This relates to what Talbot (2010) views that gender identities are shaped by capitalist social conditions and formulated in capitalist social relations". Gender disparities affected the English language learning attitudes of the male and female learners. The better performance of the female students in their intermediate exams shows their reaction to the social norms where male children are provided with more resources for learning. This also shows strong determination of the female students to maintain their identity as an educated member of the society.

The fathers' power of decisions regarding choice of subjects and colleges for the daughters demonstrates the dependency of women on men. Women's identity is shaped by the men who have the authority and power of decision about fate of the women. This strengthens the dominant position of men in the society. The better performance of the female students in intermediate exams as compared to the male students, on the other hand, reflects the desire of women to establish their position through learning the language of power. This also shows their concern to gain a new identity in society through education particularly through learning of English language.

Though both the male and female students desired to collect "symbolic capital" but the parents' unequal distribution of physical capital on their sons and daughters reflects the gender inequality in the society. The female students' silence on this unequal distribution was the result of the social norms set by the male dominated society. The conception of social identity as a site of struggle helped them to struggle for learning English. This was also mediated by resistance to unscrupulous social practice. Though the word 'unscrupulous' would be inappropriate if we look at the challenges the parents were facing in the society as discussed in the findings. The desire of the female participants for construction of identity by collecting symbolic capital requires physical resources provided by the parents. But their parents' concept of life and its challenges contrasts with the needs of the new generation and its challenges in life. The difference lies in the approach of the parents and the children towards social norms and practices in the society.

In conclusion, the findings suggest that this research reflects two worlds where the meanings of identity varied depending on the approach towards

life, sense of responsibilities, and the nature of challenges of the society for the parents and the children. The value of English language learning, however, cannot be ignored in the society where the parents associate respect with the social norms and the children are trained to follow the existing social norms.

Recommendations

English language learning has acquired symbolic power in Pakistani society. Thus critical pedagogy can be applied in classrooms to develop critical sense among the students for social justice and equality among the society. The sense of social justice and equality can increase their self-confidence and can transform their identity in the social world. Teacher training in-service courses can enhance teaching skills of the teachers for developing critical abilities of the learners in classes. Regular meetings can be held at colleges between the parents and the teachers in which the parents can be guided and trained how to provide moral support to their children at home specially to the female children. The assessment of the students' language learning includes reading and writing skills. The listening and speaking skills of the students should also be assessed to see their competence in these skills.

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Oneiric Reality of “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”: A Jungian Analysis¹

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Abstract

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner's somewhat awkward reception initially put Coleridge into a difficulty of how to defend its lack of logic and unintelligibility of events. As a handy solution to the problem he sub-titled the poem as ‘a poet’s reverie.’ This topical strategy proved counterproductive. In the wake of psychoanalytic literary criticism this aspect of the poem is greatly focused upon to explore the unconscious workings of the mind as a backstage performance. Mostly judged on the bases of the ballad’s dream-like atmosphere, there have been speculations on its sources of ancestry and frequent efforts have been made to justify these connections one way or the other. If placed within the atmosphere of dreams and soundly defended with arguments, the poem would serve not only to read its complicated symbolic patterns and some seemingly illogical incidents, but also establish a connection of the dream-world to our psychological dynamics as human beings. The making of connections simultaneously smoothens out disturbances in the mind by integrating new material—calming a storm—and also produces more and broader connections by weaving in new material. It does not simply consolidate memory, but interweaves and increases memory connections. In the Mariner’s story, which is by and large an oneiric experience, his dream symbols reflect the condition of his inner world.

Keywords: Coleridge; “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner;” Jung; Dreams; Analytical Psychology

In the end the only events in my life worth telling are those when the imperishable world irrupted into this transitory one...amongst which I include my dreams and visions. These form the prima materia of my scientific work. They are the fiery magma out of which the stone that had to be worked was crystallized.²

And some in dreams assured were
Of the spirit that plagued us so;
Nine fathom deep he had followed us
From the land of mist and snow (131-134).³

Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" [Rime] is an extraordinary tale which bears dream-like properties. Its action takes place in the human unconscious and reveals the aspects of human psyche which are common to human race. The protagonist, the Ancient Mariner [Mariner], begins his journey from the familiar and the known spheres and soon finds himself and his colleagues in the unfamiliar and the unknown—"they are the first that ever burst/Into that silent sea" (105-06). He encounters situations that are contrary to the waking experiences but legible only to an analyzing faculty capable of putting logic into an otherwise illogical entity. It is through dreams that the repressed contents of the conscious wakefulness are manifested that may help the experiencing subject in adjusting his/her psychic constitution:

In dreams we put on the likeness of that more universal, truer, more eternal man dwelling in the darkness of primordial night. There it is still the whole, and the whole is in him, distinguishable from nature and bare from all ego-hood. Out of these all-uniting depths arises the dream, be it never so infantile, never so grotesque, never so immoral" (*Civilization in Transition* 67).

The *Rime's* classification as a dream genre has generated a psycho-literary debate of immense potential. What dreams are and how they could be helpful in reflecting upon the total expression of human personality are somewhat the central issues related to contemporary psychoanalysis. Establishing the *Rime's* "somnial" (Ford 38) generic, in the first place, will help in its psychological analysis.

Much of the ancient beliefs about dreams were oracular, prophetic, daemonic, and superstitious. Though modern approaches have considerably changed and revolutionized the ancient beliefs about dreams, they still retain a certain aura of their antiquity in religious beliefs and other psychic formations engendered by visionary experiences (Doniger and Bulkeley 69).

Gothic and weird dreams were considered as prophetically revelatory of some higher orders of truth. Though not ascertained psychologically then, beliefs in oneiric realities were strongly rooted in the Coleridgean generation of Romantics. According to Jennifer Ford the second generation of Romantics regarded Coleridge 'a good natured wizard, very fond of earth, but able to conjure his etherealities about him in the twinkling of an eye' (4). The accumulated diversity of all these theories and opinions had influenced Coleridge in varying degrees. Deeply affected by his nightmares, he searched incessantly for the causes of his traumatic dreams. His physical infirmities, psychological complexities, and, at times, prophetic beliefs were one way or

the other related to his dream world.⁴ This was the reason why Coleridge took such a keen interest in dream researches and theories.

Coleridge, by temperament and circumstance, was a dreamer. In the words of Thomas De Quincy “Coleridge was a poet, a philosopher, an opium-eater, a prolific dreamer: a man whose poetry was ‘shrouded in mystery—supernatural—like the “ancient mariner”—*awfully* sublime.”⁵ But his dreams are not of wish-fulfilment or fantasy-ridden; they are nightmares of haunting guilt, abandonment, and negligence. In his dreams he is confronted by the dilemma of a life other than the conscious one. Coleridge speaks of the relation between dreams and poetry in the following words:

Poetry a rationalized dream dealing to [?about] manifold Forms our own Feelings, that never perhaps were attached by us consciously to our own personal Selves.⁶

Coleridge’s share of burden in the *Lyrical Ballads* was manifestly dealing with the supernatural and gothic which temperamentally suited him. According to De Quincy the opium-eating poet-philosopher would remain in a state of mind that could conjure up the dreamy worlds of fairies and phantoms (70). Kiran Toor says that Coleridge was “a sort of Sandman, a weaver of elusive ‘Day-Dreams’, ‘Sorts of Dreams’, ‘Reveries’, ‘Visions in Dream’, and ‘Fragments from the life of Dreams.’ What he *might* have been was one of the earliest dream analysts” (83). Coleridge’s statements, for instance, about poetry as a “rationalized dream” (CN II 2086) and a “waking dream,” according to Toor, points to his being a dream theorist and expounder notwithstanding certain critics’ allegations of the poet’s lack of coherence in oneiric theories (85). His unusual interest in dreams was not owing to being curiosities; they had been a constant presence (and the most amazing one) in his whole life. He writes about the immensity of their influence on his faculties in the following words:

The Horrors of my sleep and Night-Screams (so loud and so frequent as to make me almost a Nuisance in my own house) seemed to carry beyond mere Body—counterfeiting, as it were, the Tortures of Guilt, and what we are told of the Punishments of a Spiritual World.⁷

Statements like these provide an intimate relation and influence of dreams on the personal and poetic life of Coleridge. Albeit inseparable from the poet’s personal life and grounded in his psychic constitution, an artist’s artistic creation is treated as a model of eternal in which personal reflections of all those are seen who approach it with a sensitive receptivity. Kiran Toor points

to something very fascinating which, in her words, shows that Coleridge essentially touches on the same issue that Jung postulates almost a century later. She says:

Jumping forward about a hundred years after Coleridge is writing to the dream theory of Carl Gustav Jung; dreams are explained as just such a dealing out: ‘What is repressed, ignored or neglected by the conscious is compensated by the unconscious... and the dream gives clues, if properly read, to those functions and archetypes of the psyche pressing, at the moment, for recognition’ (86).

This statement echoes Coleridge’s definition of poetry as a sort of dream that deals out to us things that we have not yet attached to our conscious self. Also notable is how Jung describes this process of the union of conscious and unconscious elements that takes place in dreams in terms of the psychology of alchemy. For Jung, the dream is the gradual distillation of the contents of the soul. Toor relates the *Rime* to the alchemical process, and says:

A similar alchemical movement takes place in Coleridge’s the *Rime*, another dream poem, in which the ship is ‘merrily *dropped*’ as Coleridge emphasises, ‘*Below* the kirk, *Below* the hill, *Below* the lighthouse top.’ Once again it is upon such a descent that the mariner (or the dreamer as the case may be) moves away from the established structures of the waking world to an extracted and separated state that exists below consciousness (87).

Alchemically this kind of wholeness is attained after the integration of the contents of dreams into the conscious workings of the mind.

Jung and Coleridge can be conveniently read when alchemy and poetry are juxtaposed in a bid to arrive at some specific meaning of the process of ‘transmutation’ through dreams. In the alchemical context of dreams Kiran Toor views both the psychologist and the poet as struggling to arrive at an alchemical assimilative meaning of dreams in their respective manner (90). Jennifer Ford relates the kinship of dreams with momentous creativities in these words:

To dream is to retreat within and to enter the mind’s space, a space which also belongs to a world of magic, of poetry, of visions, of sexual fantasy, the ‘Stuff of Sleep and Dreams’ (43).

Dreams and poetry are intrinsic to each other⁸. The creative poetic faculty is imagination which is actively operative not only during the poetic composition but also during the states of dreaming (No 2086). In varying degrees, the dreaming imagination works in a similar manner as that of the

poetic imagination. Images of the dreamscape or the “dramatis personae” alternate in different formations and depend upon the nature of modal conceptions “translated” (No 1649) into dream experience—whether static or fluid. The bulging eyes and parching tongues of the mariners, in a “scorching sun” and “copper sky,” are somatically indicative of a dreaming imagination stuck in a morbid irresolution. Bodkin comments on the transformative process in the following words and says:

In the older, unwitting fashion the images of our dreams seem to combine aspects which, when our waking thought divides them, startle us as imaginative and poetic; similarly, as we read the straightforward language of Coleridge's ballad, it is the contrast of our waking thought, running alongside our dream-like acceptance of the tale, that gives us the sense of it as a thing of poetic witchery, made to minister to some imaginative need (36).

In Boulger's opinion relaxing of the mind into an unrestricted mood of “pre-rational” sensations affords opportunities that are either dream-like, fantasy ridden, or imaginatively synthesizing. In his opinion it is this world of “pure imagination” that hallows around the atmosphere of *Rime*; that it is a world that fits into its own logic. Questioning its standards of punishment and rewards would not satisfy the confusion of an empirical mind; its logic becomes only understandable when the logician of facts and figures within us meets his final demise.

Highlighting the greater than ordinary imaginative (dream-like) character of the *Rime*, Stockholder describes it as “a dream within a dream” meaning that the highly charged atmosphere of the poem is already drowsy in which the experiencing reader further moves toward haziness in seeing him/herself as replacing a character that fits into the identification process (32). Lowes views the *Rime* in an atmosphere of dreaminess forcefully exerting its magic on the reader from the trivial act to the immense consequences.⁹ His preference, according to Bostetter, to view the poem within the matrix of a dream or fairy-tale is based on his contention that the poem's overt moralizing at the end is difficult to accommodate within the secular realm of the modern mind. Furthermore, the Mariner's unusual experiences are somewhat beyond the work-a-day atmosphere of ordinary happenings to the extent that he does not go into the debate that dreams could reveal something relevant to waking life of the dreamer but only relates them to the inconsequence of the poem (71-2).

According to James D. Boulger the poem's dream quality is in the tradition of its classical prototypes which, according to him, is an essential formality of the epic structure. The epic action mostly comprises events that go beyond the normal extent of ordinary happenings; consequently the dream-frame is exploited to give the semblance of familiarity to things that may not be ordinarily believable. Since most of the action in the poem is mental and psychological, the dream strategy renders it acceptable to the common denomination of the reader (8, 9). Not fully explainable, certain happenings of the poem incite the element of curiosity in the reader. This in turn brings to the level of consciousness all those imaginative perceptions that lie dormant in the unconscious. Images and symbols coalesce in different patterns to emerge in those grand shapes and structures that are the eternal concomitants of human psyche.

Toor refers to Coleridge's famous definition of poetry as a "rationalized dream" and proceeds to link together in one relation of analytical psychology the unconscious, conscious, alchemy, and dreams. She enunciates the alchemical process that eventuates into the philosopher's stone and significantly mentions two words of the process, i.e. Primal and Shadow, that are crucially important for Coleridge's constituent parts of imagination and Jung's explanation of the dream process (Toor 88-89). Initially the "shadow" appears extremely abominable to the dreamer as it really is the 'ugliest' side of the psyche; but afterwards it becomes appealing to him as it compensates his total psyche. Similarly in alchemy it is the base element, like shadow, that is transformed into pure gold. The reconciliation is made within the mind of the dreamer.

The *Rime* is without its value and meaning a dream poem or 'reverie.' The poem's somewhat awkward reception initially put Coleridge into a difficulty of how to defend its lack of logic and unintelligibility of events. As a handy solution to the problem he sub-titled the poem as 'a poet's reverie.'¹⁰ But this topical strategy proved counterproductive. In the wake of psychoanalytic literary criticism this aspect of the poem is greatly focused upon to explore the unconscious workings of the mind as a backstage performance. Mostly judged on the bases of the ballad's dream-like atmosphere, there have been speculations on its sources of ancestry and frequent efforts have been made to justify these connections one way or the other. If placed within the atmosphere of dreams and soundly defended with arguments, the poem would serve not only to read its complicated symbolic patterns and some seemingly illogical incidents, but also establish a connection of the dream-world to our

psychological dynamics as human beings. The making of connections simultaneously smoothens out disturbances in the mind by integrating new material—calming a storm—and also produces more and broader connections by weaving in new material. It does not simply consolidate memory, but interweaves and increases memory connections.¹¹ In the Mariner’s story, which is by and large an oneiric experience (Nitchie 874), his dream symbols reflect the condition of his inner world:

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean (115-18).

Poems like the *Rime* are “mysterious” and “nightmarish” in nature. Shrouded in gothic imagery and atmosphere, their surface incoherence and lack of rational causality are perplexing for those who evaluate them in the parameters of *a priori* syndromes.¹² But these are generically dream-poems that subscribe to a peculiar world of logic deeply rooted in the human unconscious. Though not intelligible to the subject experiencing the dreams and requiring psychological insight for deciphering their meaning, Tekinay describes their symbolism in the psychological jargons of the tip and bottom of the “iceberg” (185).

Though ‘involuntary and spontaneous psychic products’ (Fordham np), dreams are not, so to speak, merely the phantom worlds of meaningless shadows. Their steady recurrence, either in sleep or in waking states, amounts to the mystery lying behind their crucial indispensability in the total makeup of the mind (psyche). Mostly believed to be originating from the unconscious,¹³ human dreams are as old as the unconscious which according to Jung is a psychic storehouse of millions of years of personal and collective memories (*Psyche* 75). The unlimited excavation of materials from unlimited sources would lead to the same conclusion that dreams were born with the birth of the first man on earth. But we cannot jump to conclusions without some handy logic and for this purpose some evidential arguments are given to establish a relational linkage between the *Rime* and dreams. Since dreams play an important role in the process of individuation, the emphasis here is to relate the *Rime* to its vibrant aspect as a dream poem. According to Richard Haven, ultimate reality about phenomena cannot be derived solely from physical facts understood and analyzed with ordinary perceptions. A transcendental consciousness is needed to understand the accompanying mystery. He says:

If the Mariner's experience was a "dream of truth," however, if the visionary experience of phenomena as the changing forms of a universal radiance is cognitively valid, then finite phenomena cannot be adequately described solely in terms of an order in time and space. Such a description could define phenomena as they exist in a discursive order but not as they dissolve in the unity of transcendence. If the relation between finite concept and infinite consciousness is the archetype, then an analogous relation should be revealed in physical nature (133).

Manifest contents of dreams are as much crucial to their total meanings as the latent ones. Early childhood experiences (latent infantile contents) keep interacting with experiences of adulthood. As an instance, the Mariner's killing of the albatross (when the latter is symbolically taken as the mother imago in the siblings' rivalry) is an unconscious act of killing the mother or the brother on part of Coleridge (Fruman 262-63). Mostly symbolical, disjointed, and unintelligible the Mariner himself is unable to apprehend the contents of his story while narrating them. His symbolic renderings are like pointing to the tips of the icebergs whose bottoms lie deep in the mysteries accessible only through a combination of intuition and rational thought. Kiran Toor, squarely points to Coleridge's personages of dream poems as acting out their roles in the backstage of the reader's mind (86-7). The Mariner's journey into the unknown seas is seen in similar diametric of diurnus/nocturnus and conscious/unconscious. The journey undertaken is from the familiar known world into the unknown and unfamiliar as if from the 'hypnagogic' to the 'hypnopompic.'¹⁴

The poet's vocation of weaving imaginative dreams through poetry is what Bodkin calls the now rare quality of intuition; the sequence of "poetry-dream-intuition" in the *Rime* runs counter to the disruptive waking thoughts (36). This see-saw movement of the two realms of experience has been magnificently debated by Leslie Brisman in Gloss-poetry alternation of the *Rime*. Thought (Gloss as the Porlockian intruder) disrupts the dream sequence and imaginative beauty of poetry and as such the *Rime* experienced as dream or intuition would yield more meaning and emotional significance than intellectual warbling (37).

In the final analysis it must be acknowledged that dreams are not casual happenings in the life of an individual; they are decisive factors and play decisive roles in the total makeup of the psyche. Their contents are revelatory

and as such reveal substantial truths--truths that are perennial to human life but remain dormant due to the ego's single-dimensional orientation in consciousness. The *Rime* as such is no exception to the rules.

Notes

¹This is a revised and altered version of my unpublished PhD work I submitted to the University of Peshawar. I completed the work under the supervision of Prof Nasir Jamal Khattak.

²C.G. Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, ed. Aniela Jaffé, trans. Richard and Clara Winston (London: Collins and Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1963), p. 4.

³Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," *Coleridge's Poetry & Prose*, eds. Nicholas Halmi, Paul Magnuson, and Raimonda Modiano (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004). All subsequent references are to this edition and are indicated in this paper by page number (prose) and line numbers (poetry).

⁴Ford cites Coleridge's somnial pre-cognition of his father's death a sufficient proof of the prophetic potentials of certain dreams. She further enumerates Bard Bracy's dream in *Christabel* as prophetic, foreboding a great tragedy befalling the peaceful household of Sir Leoline. Her observation that the dream is differently interpreted by the bard & Leoline is a flaw usually associated with dreams, ". . . but that the dream is a warning, a prophecy sent from somewhere, goes unquestioned" (138).

⁵H. A. Eaton, *A Diary of Thomas De Quincey, 1803*, ed. H. A. Eaton (London: Noel Douglas), entry for Wednesday 1 June 1803.

⁶See *The Notebooks of S. T. Coleridge*, Vols I & II, ed. Cathleen Coburn (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1961), notebook No. 2086. Subsequent references are to this edition and are indicated by the letters, "No" followed by the entry in the notebook.

⁷Earl Leslie Griggs, ed., *Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge: 1826-1834* (London: Clarendon Press, 2000), Letters No. 1020-21.

⁸Coleridge says, "puts the relation in these words:

How often the pen becomes the tongue of a systematic dream,-a somniloquist! . . . During this state of continuous, not single-mindedness, but one-side-mindedness, writing is manual somnambulism . . . (Shedd, V, 255).

⁹Lowes argues in the following words:

Springing from the fall of a feather, it becomes a dome in air, built with music, yet with shadows of supporting arch and pillar floating midway in the wave. For its world is, in essence, the world of dream. Its inconsequence

is the dream irrelevance, and by a miracle of art we are possessed, as we read, with that sense of an intimate logic, consecutive and irresistible and more real than reality which is the dream's supreme illusion....The event in a dream do not produce each other, but they *seem* to. And that is the sole requirement of the action of the poem (303).

¹⁰L. R. Kennard comments on the point as under:

Two circumstances are well known: the poem originated, according to Wordsworth, in a dream of Coleridge's friend John Cruikshank, and when the poem was published in the 1800 edition of *Lyrical Ballads*, Coleridge changed the title from "The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere: In Seven Parts" to "The Ancient Mariner: A Poet's Reverie." Quite plausibly, J. L. Lowes suggested in *The Road to Xanadu* (280) that the alteration was a defensive move on Coleridge's part, a retreat from full authorial responsibility in the face of Wordsworth's criticism of the poem in the preface to the same edition.

¹¹As a supporting argument Fordham quotes from Jung in these words:

A dream, he says, should 'be regarded with due seriousness as an actuality that has to be fitted into the conscious attitude as a co-determining factor', and his experience has shown him that 'if we meditate on a dream sufficiently long and thoroughly, if we carry it around with us and turn it over and over, something almost always comes of it' (np).

¹²For Jung dreams are non-volitional, spontaneously emerging from the unconscious; they are manifested at a crucial point when the conscious mind overrides the spontaneous workings of the unconscious for too long. They intimate the experiencing subject with those truths that are unalloyed and correspond to the basic truth of human nature (*Civilization in Transition*,26).

¹³According to June Singer:

More important than the cognitive understanding of dreams is the act of experiencing the dream material and taking this material seriously. Jung encourages us to befriend our dreams and to treat them not as isolated events but as communications from the unconscious. This process creates a dialogue between conscious and unconscious and is an important step in the integration of the two (*Opposites Within*, 283).

¹⁴The words respectively mean "Before sleep, relating to the state just before falling asleep; & relating to the state immediately preceding waking up (Cardinale, "Noises in a Swound!" Coleridge Bulletin, New Series 17, Summer 2001, pp 27-38).

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Influence of Capital Structure Choice on Firm Performance: A Case of Listed Non-Financial Firms of Pakistan

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Abstract

Capital structure and its relation with firm value continue to attract researcher's interest around the world to get deeper understanding on the matter concerned. The aim of this paper is to empirically investigate whether capital structure choice influences firm profitability or not in listed non-financial firms of Pakistan. Panel data regression (fixed effects model) was used to examine the relationship and effect of capital structure choice and firm performance. Secondary data from 2008-2013 was used for this study. The findings of the study revealed that capital structure choice measured through short-term debt (STD), long-term debt (LTD) and total debt (TD) has a negative but statistically weak relationship with firm performance measured through ROA and ROE. In case of firm performance measured through GPR, capital structure choice measured through LTD and TD shows positive and statistically significant relationship with firm performance whereas in case of STD it is negative but statistically significant.

Keywords: Capital structure; Firm performance; Debt; Profitability

Introduction

Financing a modern organization has become one of the most challenging decisions being faced by the financial manager due its associated risks and its influence on firm value. A good financing decision may benefit the organization resulting in cost savings but at the same time a bad financing decision may severely affect firm value due to increased costs. Financing decisions get even more complicated considering the wide variety of financing options available today to the organization; each having its own benefits and costs.

The theory of capital structure received widespread attention after the “the irrelevance theorem” presented by Modigliani and Miller in 1958. Their

theory was based on certain restrictive assumptions like perfect markets with no transaction costs etc. and argued that capital structure has no relationship with firm value. MM theory received severe criticism from prominent researchers in the area on the grounds that in the real world markets are not perfect hence, capital structure do matter as far as its influence on firm value is concerned. Since then a significant amount of research has been carried out in the area exploring the extent to which capital structure matters and whether there is an ideal mix of debt and equity that maximizes firm value or not. The findings of most of these studies indicate that an optimal capital does exist and firms can maximize their value if they select the appropriate mix of debt and equity. However, these empirical studies failed to assign a definitive value as far as optimal capital structure is concerned (Gitman & Zutter, 2010). Hence, researchers continue to derive motivation in search of exploring that definitive strategy or value of optimal capital structure that will maximize firm value.

Despite the fact that empirical studies fail to identify any definitive value that if achieved will ensure optimal capital structure, yet in the financial literature there is sufficient information to help us understand how capital structure affects firm value. Numerous studies have been carried out to explore and understand how factors influence financing decisions and firm value. Moreover, the empirical evidence on capital structure and its effect on firm performance is rather mixed. Studies from Champion, (1999) Ghosh, Nag and Sirmans (2000), Hadlock and James (2002), Berger and Bonaccorsi di Patti, (2006) indicate that capital structure choice and firm performance is positively related. On the contrary, studies from Fama and French (1998), Simerly and Li (2000) and Salim and Yadav (2012) point towards a negative relationship between the two.

Majority of the studies pertaining to capital structure choice and firm performance have focused on developed countries where financial markets are developed and much more advanced as compared to developing countries. In developing economies adverse selection costs are high due to higher level of information asymmetry and access to finance is not as easy and efficient as in developed countries (Booth et al., 2001). Hence, there is greater need to understand the implications of capital structure decisions on firm performance with respect to developing countries.

The study of capital structure with respect to its effect on the performance of the firm is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, debt levels in the last

few years have risen significantly which requires an explanation as far as its influence on firm performance is concerned. Secondly, both investors and managers have different preferences, hence it is important to know the relative strengths of debt and debt instruments and their effects on firm's performance. Lastly, the most important purpose of examining debt level and firm performance is to examine its influence on shareholder wealth as it is the primary goal of any organization (Kinsman & Newman, 1999).

The study aims at examining the relationship and effect of preferred choice of capital structure selected by the firm on the financial performance of firms listed on Karachi Stock Exchange, Pakistan. Lending rates in Pakistan are quite high as compared to the rest of the region and considering the challenging political and economic environment in Pakistan it makes it very difficult for firms to borrow in these challenging conditions and that also at a higher rate of interest. In the background of these challenging conditions and prevailing higher rates of interest it would be interesting to see what kind of effect the preferred choice of capital structure has on the performance of listed firms in Pakistan.

The study will be useful for both academic as well as business purposes as it provides valuable information with respect to how composition of debt (short-term and long-term) affects the performance of the firm. Academically it adds to the already limited empirical studies on capital structures involving panel data models.

Literature Review

Capital structure choice is one of the many factors that significantly influence firm's performance. Borrowing costs vary over different maturity periods and also from organization to organization due to their respective credit worthiness. Short-term financing comparatively contains less risk than long-term financing thus having lower interest rates (Brigham & Houston, 2001). However, these interest rates cannot be looked at in isolation as firm's creditworthiness is an important factor in getting desirable interest rates on borrowing. While examining the financial literature, we find mix evidence as far as the influence of capital structure choice on performance is concerned.

Roden and Lewellen (1995), while analysing a sample 48 firms, argued that capital structure positively influences firm performance. Studies from Gosh et al. (2000) and Hadlock and James (2002) also found out that firm's having higher debt ratios tend to have higher level of profitability. In a study

involving analysis of capital structure of Ghanaian firms, Abor (2005) concluded that both STD and TD are positively related with firm performance. Margaritis and Psillaki (2010) while considering both low and high growth firms in their sample argued that leverage positively influences firm performance both in low and high growth firms. Similarly, while applying a panel data regression model, Fosu (2013) based on sample of 257 South African firms argued that leverage positively influences firm performance.

On the contrary, many empirical studies (Titman & Wessels, 1988; Rajan & Zingales, 1995; Wald, 1999; Gleason, Mathur & Mathur, 2000; Huang & Song, 2006; Pathak, 2011 and Salim & Yadav, 2012) conducted both in developing countries argued that the choice of capital structure and firm performance are negatively related. Similarly, Zeitun and Tian (2007) based on a sample of Jordanian firms argued that debt level has negative effect on firm performance measured through both accounting as well as market based measures. Furthermore, Abor (2007) in sample containing small and medium size firms operating in Ghana and South Africa also supported earlier empirical findings that debt level and firm performance is negatively related. In another study, Ilyukhin (2015) based on a large sample of Russian joint stock companies concluded that leverage is negatively related to firm performance. Similarly, focusing on transitions economies, empirical studies from Majumdar and Chhibhar (1999) in India and Chiang et al., (2002) and Hung et al., (2002) in Hong Kong also indicate that leverage and firm performance are negatively related. Akhtar et al., (2012) based on sample of listed firms in the fuel and energy sector concluded that leverage and firm performance are positively related whereas in a study of listed sugar firms of Pakistan, Rehman (2013) found out that there is negative relationship between financial leverage and firm performance.

Moreover, Ebaid (2009) argued that capital structure choice has no or weak relation with firm performance. His study comprised of 65 Egyptian firms and measured firm performance by employing three accounting measures (ROA, ROE, GPR) in his study. In another study, Saedi and Mahmoodi (2011) analysed the influence of capital structure choice on firm performance. The findings of their study revealed that EPS and Tobin's Q has a statistically significant positive with level of debt whereas ROA and ROE has negative but statistically weak relationship with level of debt.

METHODOLOGY

Data and Sample

Since the study aimed to empirically examine the relationship between capital structure choice and firm performance, therefore secondary data was used in this study from 2008-2013. The reason for limiting the study to the period from 2008 to 2013 is that some of the data relevant to firms was not available before 2008. Data for the study was collected from the Balance Sheet ratio analysis available on State Bank of Pakistan's database. The sample comprised of listed manufacturing firms of KSE. Firms that remained listed for the entire period of study were chosen. The final sample consists of 280 firms. Currently the manufacturing sector is divided into six broad sectors namely textile, fuel and energy, cement, automobile, pharmaceutical and chemicals and food. Table 1 shows details of firms selected various industrial sectors for this study:

Table 1: Breakup of firms selected from industrial sectors

Textile	Food	Pharma & Chemicals	Cement	Auto & Parts	Fuel & energy
142	44	40	19	22	13

While collecting data, it was found out that some of the data at firm-level was missing. One way of dealing with it was to remove those firms (having missing data) from the final sample. Removal of these firms may have affected the generalizability of our findings. Therefore, firms with missing data were included in the final sample as in the financial literature we find a number of techniques used for handling missing data. These include: multiple imputations, single imputations, available and complete case analysis etc. In this study multiple imputations¹ were used for handling missing as it was more effective in handling missing data compared to other methods (Pigott, 2001).

Measurement of Variables

Firm performance: In literature we find a number of measures that are used to measure the financial performance of firm. These include: accounting measures like ROE, ROA and GPR (e.g Abor, 2005, Ebaid 2009; Salim & Yadav 2012); market based measures like volatility and stock returns (Welch, 2004); Tobin's Q which is a mixture of both market as well as accounting values (Zeitun & Tian 2007; Salim & Yadav 2012). In this study we used three accounting measures to measure the financial performance of the firm. The reason for using three different performance measures as also highlighted

by Mesquita and Lara (2002) is that these performance measures have different interpretations as far as the performance of the firm is concerned. In this kind of study, in order to have solid foundation, it is imperative to use performance measures that are quantifiable, comparable and expressive (Cole & Mehran, 1998). Accounting based measures include ROA measured through profit before interest and taxation divided by total assets *100 , ROE measured through profit after tax divided by share capital plus reserves, Gross profit margin measured through gross profit divided by sales * 100

Financial Leverage: Based on the measures used in previous studies such as Abor (2005), Abor (2007), Ebaid (2009), three ratios were used in this study to measure financial leverage. They are: short-term debt (STD) divided by total assets, long-term debt (LTD) divided by total assets and total debts (TD) divided by total assets.

Control variable: The review of literature related to capital structure and performance of firm suggests that firm size is an important factor that may influence firm performance. Large size offers several advantages to firm such as lower costs resulting from economies of scale, greater influence in the market due to proportionately large market share etc. which may influence the outcome of research and the inferences generated based on these outcomes (Jermias, 2008). Hence, to neutralize the size effects firm size was used as a control variable. Firm size was measured by taking natural log of total assets. Panel data regression was used in this study. Panel data regression is more beneficial as it is more efficient with greater degrees of freedom and provides data that is informative and also has more data variability (Gujarati, 2004). Applying panel data models also results in lower collinearity among variables. Since panel data combines both cross-sectional data as well as time series data, it is more effective in measuring effects that could not be determined in a pure time series data or cross-sectional data (Gujarati, 2004). Furthermore, panel data enable us to study more complicated behavioural models (Green, 2004). Like any other estimation technique panel data model also has certain limitations that affect data like heteroscedasticity (found in cross-sectional data) and autocorrelation (related to time series data) needs to be addressed. To address these issues and other, several estimation techniques are available among which the most commonly used are fixed effects and random effects. In order to avoid selection bias the final decision on the selection of random effects or fixed effects was based on Hausman test (1978). Based on results from Hausman test (see, Appendix), fixed effects model was adopted for this study.

Model

The following three models were used to test for the relationship between financial leverage and firm performance.

$$Performance_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 STD_{it} + FS_{it} + \mu_{it} \dots \dots \dots Model 1$$

$$Performance_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 LTD_{it} + FS_{it} + \mu_{it} \dots \dots \dots Model 2$$

$$Performance_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 TD_{it} + FS_{it} + \mu_{it} \dots \dots \dots Model 3$$

Where

STD_{it} = short-term debt/total assets for firm i at time t

LTD_{it} = long-term debt/total assets for firm i at time t

TD_{it} = total debt/total assets for firm i at time t

μ_{it} = error term

FINDINGS

Descriptive Statistics

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics

	<i>ROA</i>	<i>ROE</i>	<i>GPR</i>	<i>FS</i>	<i>STD</i>	<i>LTD</i>	<i>TD</i>
<i>Mean</i>	10.98	43.44	18.92	6.42	19.01	13.93	32.94
<i>Median</i>	6.76	19.34	23.18	6.46	21.37	20.41	48.97
<i>Maximum</i>	18.26	60.01	43.73	8.34	74.20	81.23	91.92
<i>Minimum</i>	0.01	0.03	0.04	-1.00	2.33	0.08	0.06
<i>Std.Dev</i>	0.54	0.59	0.68	0.59	0.59	0.72	0.52
<i>Skewness</i>	-1.07	-0.44	-0.66	-0.91	-0.91	-0.27	0.01
<i>Kurtosis</i>	5.10	5.03	4.87	8.00	8.00	5.11	8.07

Descriptive statistics of the variables are shown in Table 2. The measures of firm profitability shown in Table 2 indicate that the performance of firms listed on the KSE remained below average during study period from 2008-2013. It means that the average returns of firms listed on KSE was below that other comparative investment options available to investors i.e. national savings etc. One of the possible reasons for this below average performance of listed firms can be that the last few years have been very challenging for businesses in Pakistan. Energy crisis, rising inflation and poor law and order have contributed to poor performance of the firms. The total debt value of 32.94 indicates that listed firms in Pakistan on average finance 32 of their total assets through debt. On the other hand, the short-term debt value of 24.01 and long-term debt value of 21.72 reveal that listed firms in Pakistan have a preference for short-term debt over long-term debt while financing their operations. A possible explanation for this can be that interest rates in Pakistan are comparatively high and the challenging business environment

currently prevailing in Pakistan makes it difficult for firms to commit themselves to long-term financing.

Panel Regression Analysis

Table 3: Capital structure and firm performance (ROA)

<i>Variable</i>	Model 1(STD/TA)		Model 2(LTD/TA)		Model 3(TD/TA)	
	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>
Const	0.52	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.66	0.00
FS	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
STD	-0.04	0.09				
LTD			-0.05	0.13		
TD					-0.08	0.06
R-square	0.41		0.49		0.43	
F-Stats	3.40		3.43		3.43	
Sig	0.00		0.00		0.00	
Durbin-Watson	1.92		1.89		1.95	

Table 3 shows the results related to the effect of capital structure measured through STD, LTD, TD on firm level performance measured through ROA. The co-efficient value of STD, LTD and TD indicate that firm performance and measures of capital structure choice (STD, LTD and TD) are negatively related. This indicates that an increase in STD, LTD and TD leads to decline in ROA and vice versa. Increase in debt not only increases the financing cost of debt but also the level of financial risk. The p-values of STD, LTD and TD indicate that the relationship is statistically insignificant.

Table 4: Capital structure and firm performance (ROE)

	Model 1(STD/TA)		Model 2(LTD/TA)		Model 3(TD/TA)	
<i>Variable</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>
Const	1.32	0.00	1.30	0.00	1.36	0.00
FS	-0.01	0.81	-0.01	0.75	-0.01	0.70
STD	-0.04	0.10				
LTD			-0.02	0.55		
TD					-0.04	0.26
R-square	0.37		0.52		0.46	
F-Stats	3.74		3.73		3.74	
Sig	0.00		0.00		0.00	
Durbin-Watson	1.91		1.94		1.98	

Table 4 shows the results related to the effect of capital structure measured through STD, LTD, TD on firm performance measured through ROE. The co-efficient value of STD, LTD and TD indicate that firm performance and measures of capital structure choice (STD, LTD and TD) are negatively related. This indicates that an increase in STD, LTD and TD results in decline in ROA and vice versa. An increase in debt not only increases the financing cost of debt but also the level of financial risk (Harris & Raviv, 1999). The p-values of STD, LTD and TD indicate that the relationship is statistically insignificant. Moreover, the results also indicate that firm size which is used as control variable has weak or no significant effect on firm profitability.

Table 5: Capital structure and firm performance (GPR)

<i>Variable</i>	Model 1(STD/TA)		Model 2(LTD/TA)		Model 3(TD/TA)	
	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>	<i>Co-efficient</i>	<i>P-Value</i>
Const	2.79	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.94	0.00
FS	-0.06	0.33	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.56
STD	-0.28	0.00				
LTD			0.65	0.00		
TD					0.59	0.00
R-square	0.50		0.79		0.58	
F-Stats	4.98		18.21		6.87	
Sig	0.00		0.00		0.00	
Durbin-Watson	1.90		1.90		1.83	

Table 5 shows the results related to the effect of capital structure measured through STD, LTD, TD on firm performance measured through GPR. The co-efficient value of STD and its corresponding p-value indicates a statistically strong and negative relationship between STD and firm performance measured through gross profit margin ratio. The co-efficient value of LTD and TD and their corresponding p-values indicate that LTD and TD is not only positively related but also the relationship is statistically significant. Moreover, the results also show that the control variable (firm size) has a strong influence on firm performance in case of model 2 whereas in case of Model 1 and 3 it has no significant effect.

In summary, results from Table 3 and Table 4 indicate that capital structure choice is weakly related to firm performance (measured through ROA and ROE). Moreover, the relationship is negative. However, results from Table 5 indicate that the relationship between capital structure choice and firm performance is statistically strong. The findings of this study with respect to capital structure choice and firm performance measured through ROA and ROE contradicts the earlier empirical findings in developing countries (Abor, 2005; Kyereboah-Coleman, 2007). Whereas the findings of the study with respect to capital structure choice and firm performance measured through gross profit margin ratio are similar to the findings of Gosh et al., (2000), Abor (2005), Zeitun and Tian (2007).

Conclusion

Since the landmark “irrelevance-theorem” of Modigliani and Miller in 1958, a vast majority of literature has been dedicated to study the implications of capital structure decisions on the financial performance of the firms. Most of these investigative studies have focused on developed countries whereas in case of developing countries like Pakistan, empirical research as far as the influences of capital structure decisions on the financial performance of the firm is somewhat under researched. Therefore, the study aimed to explore the effect of capital structure mix on the financial performance of listed manufacturing firms of Pakistan. For this purpose ROA, ROE and GPR were the three accounting measures used to measure firm performance. The empirical results show that all three measures of capital structure (STD, LTD, TD) have a negative but statistically weak relationship with firm performance measured through ROA and ROE. In case of firm performance measured through GPR, capital structure choice measured through LTD and TD shows positive and statistically significant relationship with firm performance; whereas in case of STD it is negative but statistically significant.

In this study only leverage was used as an independent variable whereas there are other macroeconomic variables (GDP growth rates, exchange rates, inflation, taxes etc.) that can exert an influence on firm performance. Data for some of the companies was available before 2008 that’s why data was limited to 2008-13.

The findings of the study provide meaningful insights as far as the relationship between compositions of debt and firm performance. This study will help businesses in making financing decisions and provide valuable information to financial managers with respect to how short-term debt and long-term debt influence firm performance.

The study used panel data regression to measure the effect of leverage with firm performance. In future other econometric models can also be applied to measure the effect of leverage on firm performance. Moreover, other country specific factors like interest rates, stock market development, inflation rates, growth rates can also be used along with leverage as these are crucial factors that financial managers consider while making financial decisions.

Note

¹Multiple imputations is a statistical technique used to find values for missing data in a data set. The researcher generates a number of possible values for each missing value by generating parallel data sets randomly. The researcher then combines the estimated value for the missing value in each parallel data set and takes an average of the value which will be in place of the missing value in the original data set.

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Appendix

<i>Test Summary</i>	<i>Chi-Sq. Statistic</i>	<i>Chi-Sq. d.f.</i>	<i>Prob.</i>
Cross-section random STD/TA (ROA)	231.41	4	0.00
Cross-section random LTD/TA (ROA)	161.77	4	0.00
Cross-section random TD/TA (ROA)	109.85	4	0.00
Cross-section random STD/TA (ROE)	311.33	4	0.00
Cross-section random LTD/TA (ROE)	106.69	4	0.00
Cross-section random TD/TA (ROE)	200.11	4	0.00
Cross-section random STD/TA (GPR)	157.32	4	0.00
Cross-section random LTD/TA (GPR)	96.11	4	0.00
Cross-section random TD/TA (GPR)	112.32	4	0.00