

Perceptions & Predictors of Inequality among Afghan & Pakistani Women

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Introduction: Afghan & Pakistani Women

- decades of poverty, violence, and human rights violations
- strides to protect women's rights
- CEDAW
 - Pakistan: 1996
 - Afghanistan: 2003
- cultural norms = lack of adoption & enforcement



Research Questions

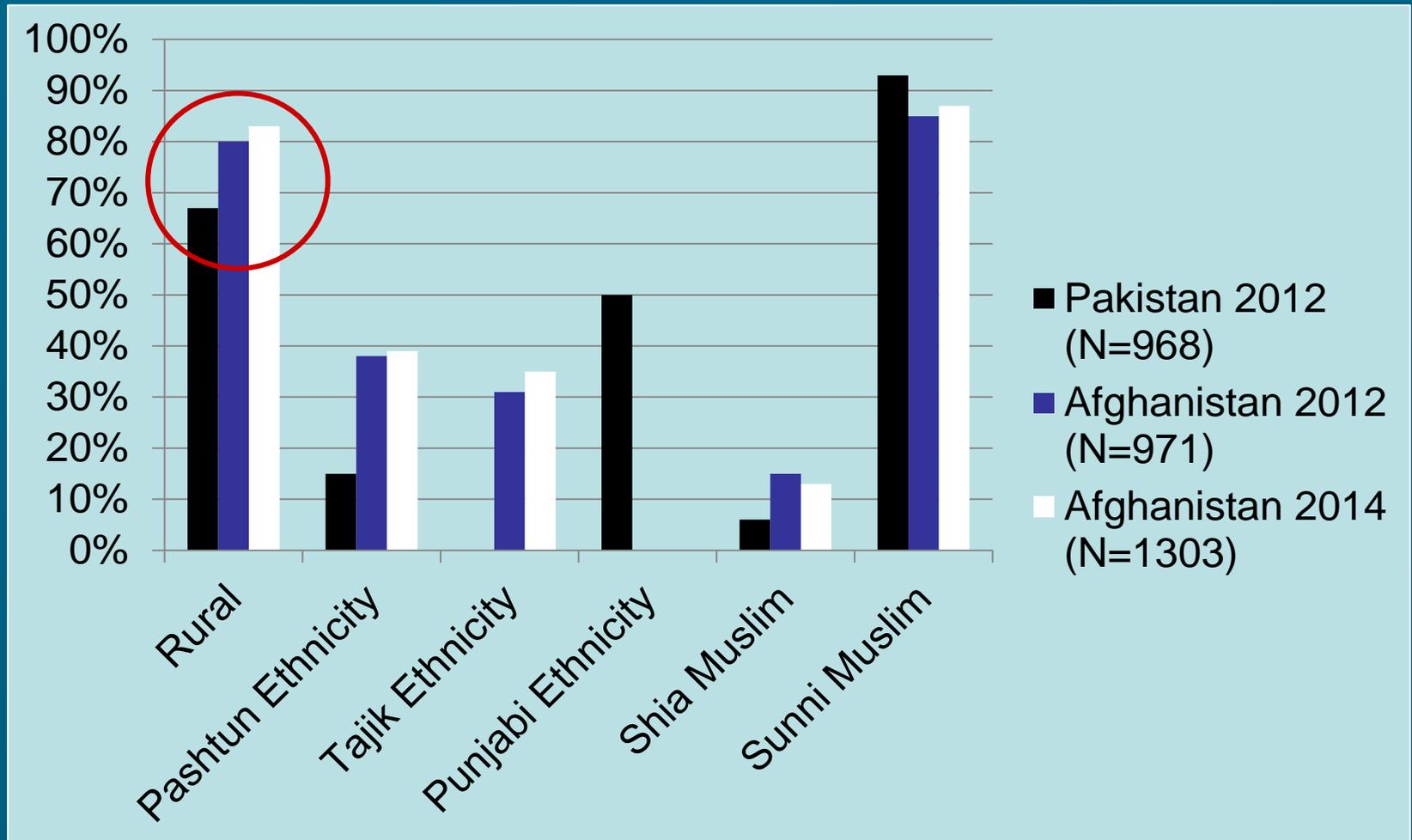
1. What background characteristics are associated with perceived inequality?
2. What are the strongest predictors of perceived inequality?
3. What (media) sources do women use to receive news? Does the use of *Westernized* media have a greater influence on perceptions of inequality among women than the use of more traditional forms?
4. Is perceived inequality improving?

Methods: 3 Multistage Samples

- Stratification (Province/Urbanity) → Districts (PSU, PPS) → Settlements (SSU, SRS) → Residence (SRS-Random Walk) → Individual (SRS-Kish Grid)
- Close to self-weighted by design → unweighted analysis

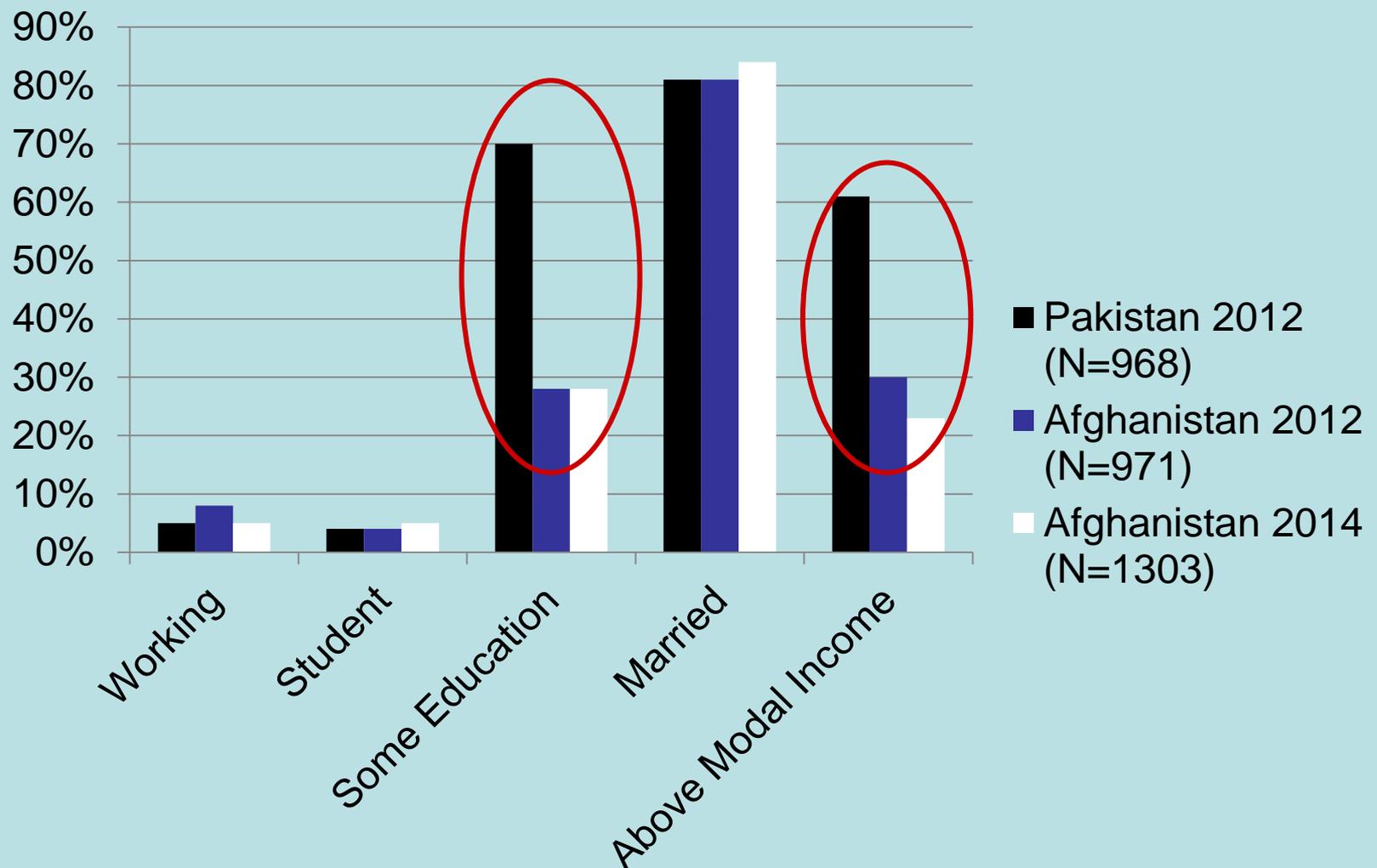
Country	Pakistan	Afghanistan	
Year	2012	2012	2014
N	2012	2018	2643
Contact Rate	72%	80%	87%
Cooperation Rate	84%	93%	93%
Response Rate	60%	75%	81%
ME (95% CI) Women	5%	5%	4%
Design Effect Women	2.96	2.06	2.35

Methods: Characteristics of Women



- Mean age = 33-34 for all samples

Methods: Characteristics of Women



Methods: Interviews

- face-to-face
- gender-matched interviewing in Afghanistan
- conducted in native languages
- data quality assurance:
 - back-checking
 - supervised interviews
 - double data entry



Methods: Measures (Background)

- mostly forced-choice items
 - ethnicity
 - religiosity
 - occupation
 - marital status
 - age
 - income

Methods: Measures (News Source)

- Asked what source relied on most for news:
 - radio
 - television
 - word of mouth (e.g., family, mosque)
- Only asked in 2012 surveys
- Some proportions small (<5%)

Methods: Measures (Rights)

- ordinal response:
 - (1) fewer, (2) equal, or (3) more rights than men
- 6 rights examined:
 - participating in politics
 - access to education
 - access to employment
 - protection from violence
 - access to health care
 - decisions regarding reproductive health
- Cronbach's alpha: .77



Methods: Measures (Services)

- ordinal response:
 - (1) very adequate to
 - (5) service not available
- 5 services examined:
 - pediatrics
 - pre-natal care
 - post-natal care
 - women's health
 - general healthcare
- Cronbach's alpha: .92



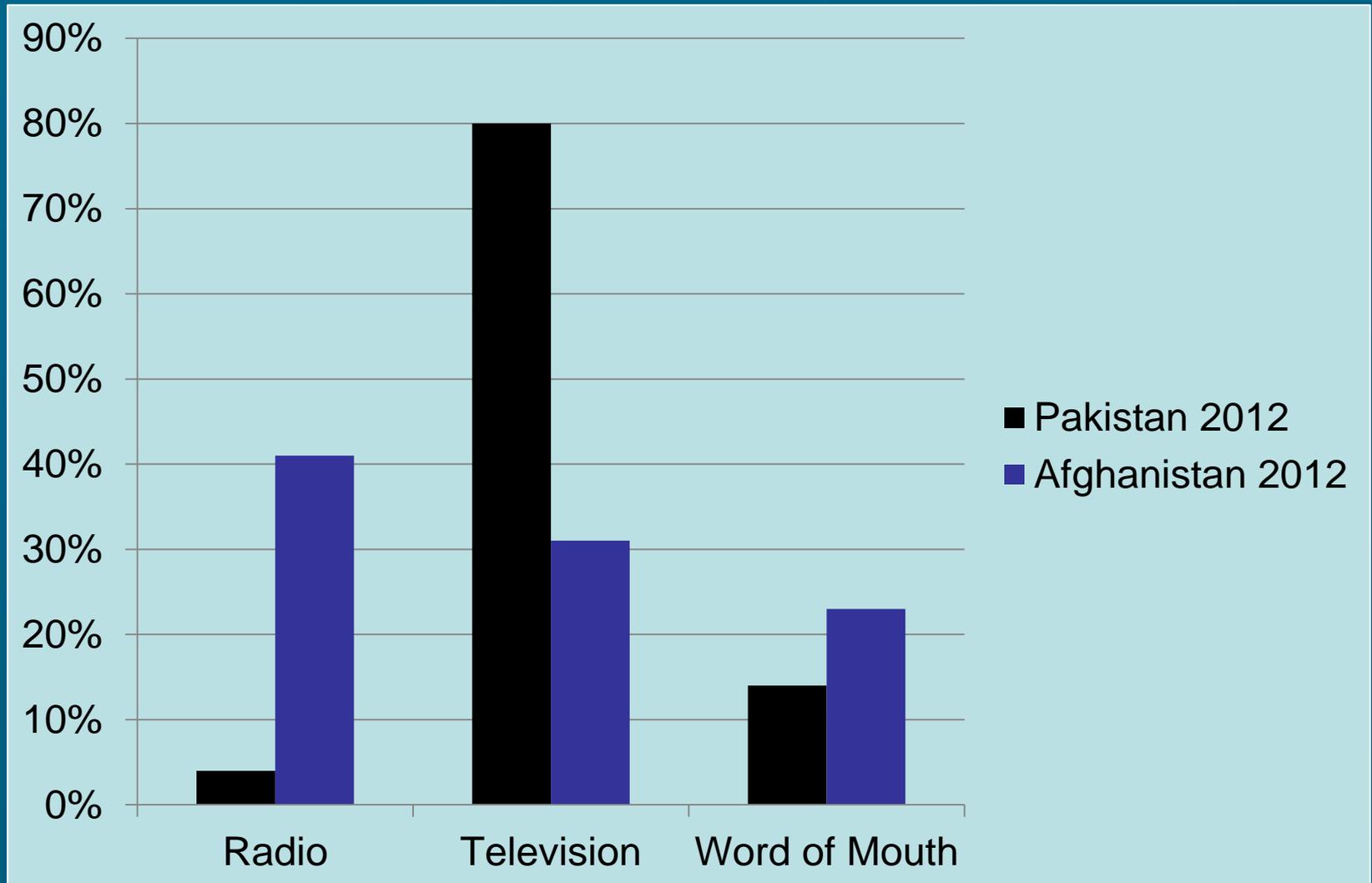
Methods: Predictors of Rights/Services

- OLS regressing rights/services on:
 - Country
 - Rural status
 - Ethnicity
 - Muslim denomination
 - Age
 - Demographics
 - News source
- same relationships examined as zero order correlations
- only interpreted if significant ($p < .05$) at both zero-order relationship & semi-partial relationship level

Methods: Changes in Rights & Services

- independent samples t-tests
- Heckman (1979) selectivity analysis
→ selectivity did not serve as a tenable explanation for our findings

Results: Women's Media Sources



Results: Women's Rights

- Afghan women had fewer rights than Pakistani women
 - found for all outcomes, except education & healthcare
 - strongest predictor



Results: Women's Rights

- rural women had less access to employment and healthcare
- Pashtun & Shia women had fewer rights in some cases
- Weak relationship with media sources



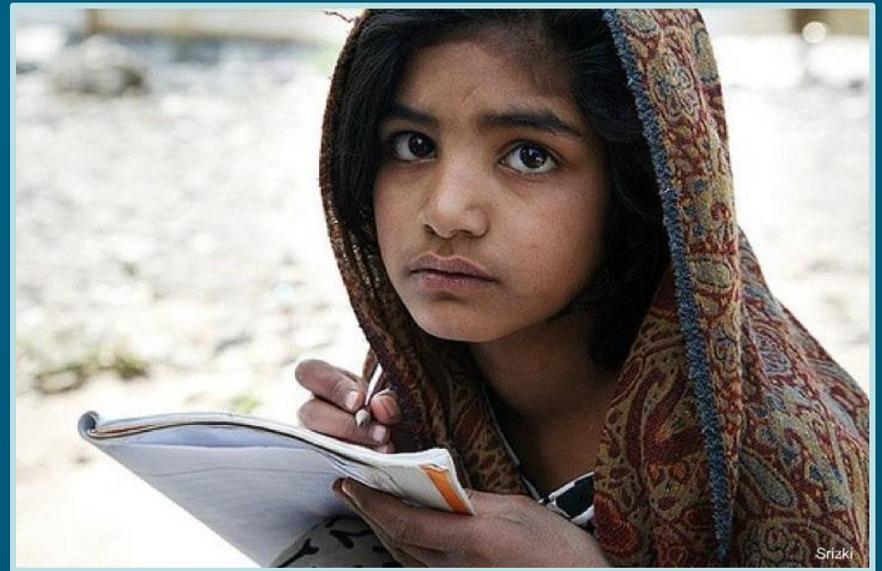
Results: Women's Services



- country had little impact
- rural women had less access to all services (strongest predictor)
- Punjabi, Shia, and younger women saw some services as being less available

Results: Women's Services

- women with some education saw all services as being more available
- receiving news from Western media (TV) was related to greater perceived access to pre-natal, post-natal, & health services



Interpretation: Rights & Services

- Taliban rule influences Afghanistan, impacts women's rights
- Pakistan is a more stable society
- Services less common in rural areas: increased poverty and geographic barriers



Interpretation: Rights & Services

- Conservative religious ideologies/ethnicities: fewer rights & services
- Education is related to more services
- TV confounded with income, but likely made women more aware of services



Results: Differences Over Time

- Decreases between 2012 and 2014:

Rights:

- Access to healthcare
- Reproductive health decisions

Services:

- Pre-natal care
- Post-natal care
- Women's health
- General health services



Interpretation: Differences Over Time

- Insurgents trying to reverse education gains among Afghan girls
- Women who accept international aid considered “nation betrayers” by Taliban
- Is the newly liberated Afghanistan a reality?