

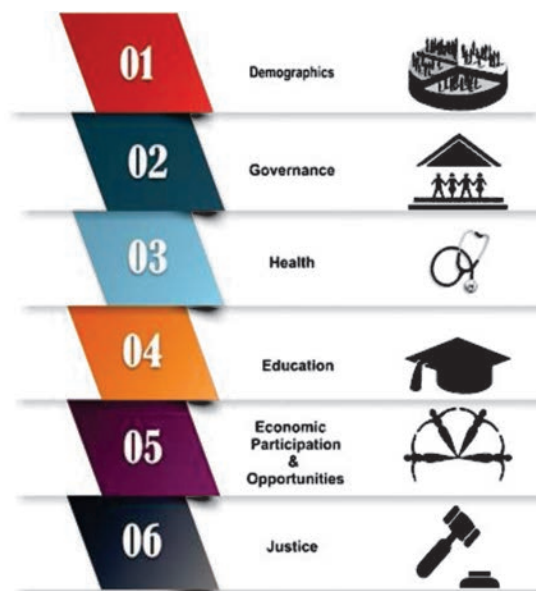
# INTRODUCTION

## **Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)**

PCSW is a statutory body established through the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2014 for the development, protection and empowerment of women. Following the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, policy areas related to the empowerment of women were devolved to the provincial level, and PCSW was conceived as an oversight body to ensure that policies and programs of the government promote gender equality in Punjab. According to Section 9 of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act 2014, PCSW is mandated to “Sponsor, steer and encourage research to generate information, analysis and studies and maintain a database relating to women and gender issues to provide knowledge and awareness for provincial policy and strategic action for women's empowerment.”

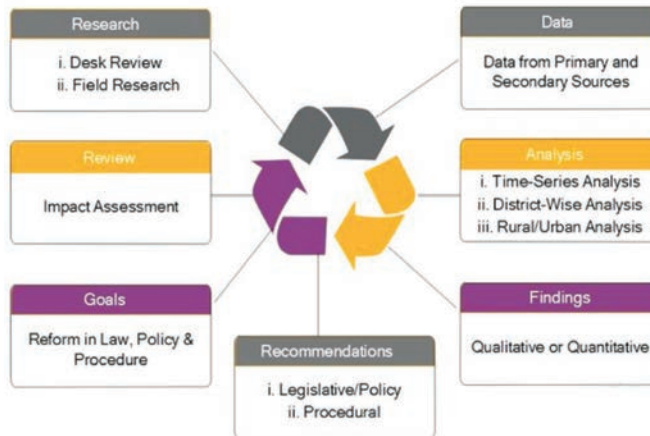
## **Overview of the Punjab Gender Parity Report (PGPR)**

PGPR was launched in line with PCSW's statutory objectives to report and analyze the status of gender parity in Punjab. For policy makers to understand the extent and nature of existing disparities, reliable gender disaggregated data for PGPR 2017 was accessed to measure parity within six thematic areas as well as to gauge progress of recent women's empowerment initiatives taken by the government. The six thematic areas include: Demographics, Governance, Health, Education, Economic Participation and Opportunities, and Justice. These thematic areas reflect an understanding that gender equality can only be achieved in a society when both women and men have equal shares in the distribution of power and influence, and have equal opportunities to education, health, decent work and livelihoods.



Data gathered on specific indicators within each thematic area is disaggregated by gender, district, and the urban/rural divide (where possible). To understand gender differences with respect to various aspects of human development, Gender Parity Index has been employed wherever applicable. The base value of 1.0 refers to absolute gender parity; values lower than 1 point to a situation in favor of men and vice versa. As a universally used unit of Gender Parity Index provides a scientific and reliable method of measuring gender equality.

Conceptual and Methodological Framework of PGPR 2017



## Defining Features of the PGPR

PGPR 2017 aims to influence policy by providing accurate and reliable data to policy-makers and government officials.



As an annual series of status reports, the PGPR monitors the performance and implementation status of government initiatives introduced for the protection and empowerment of women.



The PGPR presents analysis at provincial and district levels, thus facilitating responsive and targeted policy interventions.



The PGPR also serves as a resource for independent researchers, policy think tanks and academics.



PGPR's findings are based on gender-disaggregated data. The process of data collection is a step towards acclimatizing government departments and entities on the need to collect and maintain data disaggregated by gender.