

J.1- GILL MEHAR SINGH., Politics of Population Census Data in India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLII, No. 3, January 20-26, 2007, pp. 241-249.

This paper attempts to understand the following aspects of population census data in India: (i) categorization of census materials. (ii) Changes in census categories over time and (iii) Changes in details of data of caste and religion. With a long history of more than 130 years now, the Indian Census is one of the most comprehensive in the world. This paper tries to explain the nature of census data in India, census and religion, census and caste and some evidence from the state of Punjab. Apart from the enumeration of various demographic facts, census taking enhances a characteristic visibility of certain aspects of populations in tune with the reigning political narrative at a given point of time. Sometimes the religious and ethnic minorities are given much less attention in census details as compared to the sub-groups of the majority of the population. So, a proper comprehension of population patterns, both social and spatial is necessary and for this it is imperative to understand the politics of collection of such data. The categories as well as details of census data have been closely connected with the political agendas of country's rulers during the British as well as post-British periods. The paper analyses that while the Hindu majority population is generally opposed to the collection of detailed data by religion, the religious minorities are mostly in favour. Similarly, upper-caste Hindus are often against census data by castes, while lower castes mostly welcome it as it would help reinforce their social identity which is becoming increasingly important for enhancing political strength in the evolving situation.

Santosh Kumar Atre

J.1- KAUSHIK BHATTACHARYA, ABHIMAN DAS and ANUJIT MITRA, Demographic Statistics in India: Why shall we take the Electoral Roll Seriously? *Demography India*, Vol. 36, No. 1, 2007, pp. 155-167.

The authors suggest a serious scrutiny of the Indian demographic information system, as the existing sources, viz. Census, Sample Registration System (SRS), National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

etc., have limitations. The paper suggests an online register based approach to collect demographic data in India, and proposes innovative ways for the extension of the electoral roll (ER) prepared by Election Commission (EC) of India, into an online population database (OPD).

The ER for each assembly constituency in a state in India is basically a database constituted of particular information on the adult (aged 18 years or above) population of that constituency. The information typically includes name, age, sex and the relevant serial numbers. Recommendations of the authors include firstly, disseminating the ER in a proper database format, and to centralize and maintain in a uniform format. Secondly, inclusion of the permanent primary keys for both households and individuals. The authors recommend that with little extra effort information pertaining to all household members regardless of age, instead of only adult members, can be collected. The database for ER could be generated easily by filtering the population of age 18 years and above. Once the OPD for a year becomes available, one needs to prepare the records of new additions and deletions for the subsequent years in order to calculate demographic measures like birth-rates and death rates. Here the additional task is to record the same for non-adult population as well. The causes of addition could be birth, migration, wrong omission etc. and that of deletion could be death, migration, wrong inclusion in earlier ER etc.

Besides giving demographic estimates at any desired regional level, this database would have many other uses, e.g. facilitating the future planning of EC, pension verifications, cross-check of the civil registration system data. The whole process has been argued to be economically feasible as major investment required would be only a one-time investment.

Lopamudra Ray Saraswati

J.1- ALOK RANJAN and ANIL B. DEOLALIKAR, The Institutional Context of Fertility in Madhya Pradesh, *Demography India*, Vol. 36, No. 1, 2007, pp. 55-71.

This paper attempts to analyse the factors affecting fertility in MP through an institutional perspective using data from a survey

carried out in 1999 in three community development blocks and five towns of three districts of undivided Madhya Pradesh. The institutional context has been captured in terms of three aspects – family environment, supra family networks and status of women in the family. The first set of variables contain practice of “purdah” system, involvement in family decision making and opinion about benefit of getting pregnant among the surveyed women. Family environment has been captured by authority exercised by the family-head, child death experience in the family, role of family-head in family matters, mass-media exposure of the head and opinion of family-head about cost of child rearing. The third dimension is captured by the influence of a priest/peer on the family. The results show that institutional settings have a very strong family orientation implying a dominating influence of family preferences over individual choices regarding fertility decisions. Multinomial logistic regression analysis shows that influence of priest, opinion of women about getting pregnant, role of family head and mass-media exposure have significant impact on fertility outcome. The other institutional variables, although not statistically significant, are in the expected directions reflecting the importance of institutional context in fertility decision making. The analysis suggests that fertility, in particular, and reproductive behaviour, in general, have a strong institutional orientation in the Indian social system. An important finding is that issues related to fertility are related to the self-esteem of women. So, the approach of policies to regulate fertility should be people-centred, taking into consideration the institutional context of reproductive decision making.

Lopamudra Ray Saraswati

J.1- SIDDHARTH AGARWAL, ARAVINDA SATYAVADA, S. KAUSHIK and RAJEEV KUMAR, Urbanization, Urban Poverty and Health of the Urban Poor: Status, Challenges and the Way Forward, *Demography India*, Vol. 36, No. 1, 2007, pp. 121-134.

This paper makes an attempt to assess the association between poverty and health status among urban poor of India, using data from the Round-II of National Family Health Survey, 1998-99. In order to disentangle the intra-urban disparity, hidden in the urban

aggregate figures, the data have been disaggregated by economic groups depending on the standard of living index. People in urban areas with a low standard of living have been considered to represent the urban poor. Results indicate inadequate health care practices among urban poor – only 24.8 percent of mothers receive a complete antenatal care during pregnancy, as high as 74.3 percent home deliveries and only 42.9 percent complete immunization of children. Malnourishment is also highly prevalent (56.8 percent) among urban poor children. Another contributing factor to the bad health of urban poor is low awareness about recommended health practices.

The paper also outlines challenges, opportunities and approaches to be taken in improving the health outcomes of urban poor. Challenges include rapid growth of slum population, social exclusion of slums, insecurity due to land tenancy, absence of basic amenities, inaccessibility to private health providers due to high cost etc. Opportunities are the existence of a large number of potential partners for slum improvement programmes, geographical accessibility of slums for outreach activities etc. Approaches towards slum-development programmes could be public-private partnership, training of slum based health volunteers, identifying and mapping of all slum clusters, and policy advocacy for effective implementation. The recommendation made is that the policy and programmes should be focussed on the poor section of urban population, utilizing the opportunities outlined and approaches suggested here.

Lopamudra Ray Saraswati

J.1- D. P. SINGH, Migration in Mumbai: Trends in Fifty Years, *Demography India*, Vol. 36, No. 2 2007, pp. 315-327.

This paper examines the growth of Mumbai during the last five decades with special reference to the process of migration. It uses data collected in the Indian Census from 1961 to 2001. Among the three components of population growth, geographical expansion of the area has no impact of Mumbai's population growth. Though during 1901-61, the share of natural increase to the total population growth was much lower than that of net-migration, 1961 onwards the share of migration had started declining. It has declined from 50

percent in 1961 to 40 percent in 2001. Also the percentage of migrants to total population shows continuous decline during 1961-2001 – 64 percent to 43 percent. The migration to Mumbai was always dominated by the migrants from other states, constituting nearly 60 percent of all the migrants consistently. Flow has increased significantly from northern Indian states like UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and MP. Southern Indian states showed a little change in their share of migration, while Gujrat showed a declining trend in recent years.

The trends of migration showed a shift from urban origin to rural origin migrants over last five decades. The North Indian states shows higher percentage increase among migrants from rural areas compared to southern states. The female-to-male ratio of migrants showed fast improvement over the study period. The pattern of inter-district migration flows indicates increase in the influx of migrant from backward districts of the state. The outmigration from Mumbai to other districts of Maharashtra was mainly to neighbouring district of Thane. This could be attributed to the movement of people for residential purpose in the newly developed township called New Mumbai. Ward-level data revealed that migrants from a particular region of India are found in some particular wards in maximum numbers.

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