

PEEPING INTO THE FUTURE -
LIKELY FACTORS INFLUENCING
THE GLOBAL CENSUS ROUND 2005-14

22nd ANCSDAAP
POPULATION CENSUS CONFERENCE
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THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF UNIVERSAL POPULATION CENSUS IN 2005-14

At least 250- 300 million people not counted – about 5% of the world population in 1990 and 2000 round, mostly in Africa, Asia and Europe

- Peaceful conditions- international or internal or a combination of the two
- Economic affordability
- Technical support

Can these hurdle be overcome this time ? Who is to take these challenges head on ?

Census Taking Choice
between
Ultra-modern (electronic)
and
Routine census

Ultra-modern census based on

- Population Registers (and creation of housing /property, business, educational and school registers)
- National ID projects on the rise, the issue of privacy
- Tremendous improvement in vital registration data collection required, a big challenge

Routine census will also have to cater to new areas

- Slum demography
- Gender issues
- Disability data
- Greater emphasis on housing, amenities and assets data
- Convergence of schedules for the developed and the developing countries
- Changes in Census schedules/ questionnaires- primarily to meet the MDG outputs and other data requirements to justify costs on censuses
- Do the requirements of estimating MDG indicators provide a lease of life to Population Censuses?

ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, THE CRITICAL FACTOR

Last two rounds of global census saw a major shift in use of IT from DATA DISSEMINATION to DATA PROCESSING. THE NEW CHALLENGE IS IN DATA COLLECTION AND FIELD SUPERVISION

- Primary data collection and supervision of field work through PDAs/ HAND HELD DEVICES WITH GPS
- Direct data collection- Internet, SMS, CATI, Mobile phones
- On line data editing, data processing and tabulation of results
- Online supervision, editing, data processing and tabulation a distinct possibility – faster availability of results, better data dissemination
- New challenges in data storing, archiving, retrieval

Electronic schedules and sampling in census

- Short form and the long form- universal canvassing of the schedules
- Sampling for canvassing the long form- WHY ONLY 1/5 OR 1/6 OR 1/8 ?
- Administrative, technical and time required for canvassing electronic questionnaire – new areas
- Costs involved in preparation of electronic questionnaires/ schedules – VERY LOW COSTS
NO TRANSPORTATION, NO PAPER AND NO PRINTING, AND NEGLIGIBLE STORAGE SPACE REQUIREMENT

Use of GIS/GPS for carving out EA

- Improvements in mapping and small area statistics, further intensive use of GPS/GIS
- Use of GPS for checking/ monitoring the work of Enumerators and Supervisors

EFFECT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON CENSUS TAKING

- Heavy demand and requirement for capacity building of IT personnel in Census/ Statistical offices around the world
- Paper less census- a distant dream or a real possibility ??

Some technical issues on which the world needs better answers from the Census Taking Community

- Challenge of Population Count Accuracy –Improve the accuracy of population count for greater political and administrative acceptability avoiding judicial interventions- the credibility of the census at stake, threats from the legal world
- Changes in census laws, rules, regulations and procedures the need to document them and make them as transparent as possible
- Question of over and under count adjustment -
ONC (ONE NUMBER CENSUS)
- Greater role and involvement of stake holders

Greater accuracy of population count

- of the disadvantaged and minority groups,
- emerging challenges of absolute decline and negative growth rates in populations in developed countries and HIV/AIDS affected countries

Quality improvement in data collection on long pending items

Age data

- Functional literacy
- Mortality data
- Economic activity including the NIC and NCO classification
- Migration statistics

New emerging areas of interest in data on

- Disability,
- Elderly populations,
- Squatter/slum populations,
- Gender issues,
- Computer and electronic equipment with a household,
- Measurement of poverty,
- Nutrition status and food habits,
- Migration and mobility,
- Environment issues, and
- Energy/fuel consumption

Evolve new/better definitions on some census concepts, for example on

Rural/urban classification

- Houseless / homeless, institutional and slum populations,
- orphans
- living arrangements- same sex marriages, family composition
- Conventional housing

CONCLUSIONS

- THE CHALLENGE IS TO HOLD POPULATION CENSUS IN ALL THE COUNTRIES
- Due to emerging National ID card projects and National Population Registers a gradual shift away from the traditional census
- Changes in census schedules/forms, emergence of electronic schedule
- Interviewing techniques will switch over to internet, CAPI and CATI
- Major changes in data collection processes – use of PDA/handheld devices with GPS on the rise
- Online supervision, editing, data processing and tabulation a distinct possibility – faster availability of results, better data dissemination
- Capacity building of census/statistical office personnel to handle the new skill requirements of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Improve accuracy of population count for greater political and administrative acceptability and avoiding judicial interventions- examine census laws, rules, regulations and procedures and document
- Challenges of absolute decline and negative growth rates in populations
- Improve collection of age data, functional literacy, economic activity etc.
- Emerging areas of interest - disability, elderly populations, gender issues, measurement of poverty, environment and energy/fuel consumption, migration and mobility etc.
- Better definitions required on living arrangements, homeless, institutional and slum populations, orphans etc.

VISION, DEDICATION, IMAGINATION AND
CREATIVITY AND NOT NECESSARILY TONS
OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED

LETS PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER
TO FULFILL THIS MISSION FOR THE GLOBAL
ROUND OF POPULATION CENSUS 2005-14

MEET THE CHALLENGE HEAD ON AND LET US
HAVE THE WILL, DETERMINATION AND SINGLE
MINDEDNESS OF PURPOSE. DO IT.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT
BE A MOTIVATOR, BE A LEADER

THANKS

FOR YOUR TIME

AND ATTENTION

QUESTIONS/

OBSERVATIONS/

COMMENTS

IF ANY

NOW Or LATER

ARE WELCOME