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**Country paper
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Outline of the Presentation

1. What do we want from Population Census
2. What resources are available for Use
3. How Census goals/ objectives are achieved with exiting resources
4. Impact on various parties and limitations

1. What do we want from Population Census

The fundamental purpose of the Population Census is to provide the information essential to governmental policy planning and administration.

For Planning

- The Population Census, can make an important contribution to the overall planning process and the management of national affairs.
- The results of the Census are also used in policy development and in management and evaluation of programmes in fields such as education, employment, housing, health, rural development, urbanization and welfare.

For Administration

- One of the most basic administrative uses of Census data is in the demarcation of electoral boundaries and the allocation of representation on government and local government bodies.

For Research

- Census provides indispensable data for scientific research.
- The evolution of the age-sex structure, growth and distribution of population, education and occupation patterns as well as the economic and social characteristics of the population and the labour force are questions of scientific interest we need answers derived from Population Census data.

For business and plan consumer demands

- The Census data are required for various policy and planning purpose in business and industry as well.
- Reliable estimates on consumer demand for an ever expanding variety of goods and services depend on accurate information on the size of population in sub national areas.
- Further, the local availability of labour for the production and distributions of commodities and services may be important in determining the location of enterprises.

Data users

- During the planning stage of the Census, user groups are formed to examine the data requirements.
- The users represent a wide area of expertise ranging from government policy making, administration, research and also business. Usually, the requests from data users are numerous but Census can accommodate only few new items.

NSO's image building

- DCS make use of the opportunity of reaching each and every household in the country to the maximum, to reflect its credibility and reputation.
- Publicity campaign is directed to all corners of the country through media briefings, posters, school competitions, leaflets etc.,
- Due to the image and reputation of DCS as a politically unbiased, neutral organization the level of co-operation of public remains very high.

Creating statistical capabilities

- During the 2001 Census a few capabilities were created towards the conduct of the Census.
- Existing capabilities were utilized to the maximum extent.
- It is necessary to provide the necessary skills in understanding the latest techniques in conducting a modern Census.

Population Census fitting with other Social and Economic Statistics

- Population and Housing Census can be used in the preparations of agriculture and industrial Censuses.
- The frame of buildings compiled during the Population Census can be utilized not only for the other two Censuses but also for the subsequent sample surveys in designing scientific samples.
- Census provides benchmark data for evaluating the reasonableness of the overall survey results as well as a base against which changes in the characteristics investigated in both inquiries can be measured.
- Population Census Data also serve as denominators for the various socio-economic indicators such as birth rates, school enrolment ratios, GDP per capita etc.,

2. What resources are available for Use

- The available human and capital resources are generally inadequate for the conduct of the Population Census.
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the available resources should be increased through proper training and motivation of staff.
- Training in latest technologies are needed in the following areas.
 - Computer Assisted Coding
 - OCR/OMR/ICR technology
 - Population Census Methodology
 - Editing, imputations and tabulation of data
 - Data analysis (emerging social issues such as gender, ageing, changing family composition etc., as well as small area estimation techniques)
 - Census Mapping
 - Census data dissemination techniques (including interactive internet data manipulations, data ware house systems)
 - Software packages in planning, management, data entry, editing, tabulation and analysis.
- The concept of team-work needs to be further developed at all levels.

3. How Census goals/ objectives are achieved with exiting resources

- DCS get the co-operation from most of the government agencies at different stages in conducting the Population Census.
- District (25 districts in the country) Secretaries who are in-charge of the administration of districts, are statutorily appointed as Commissioners of Census.
- They are responsible for the overall smooth conduct of the Census operation within their districts.
- Divisional Secretaries (DS) (323 DSD in the country) who are in-charge of Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSD) (administrative subdivisions within districts) are appointed as Deputy Commissioners and guide the field work within their jurisdiction through Grama Niladharis who are the grass root level administrative workers of the government.
- All the state employees are mobilised for Census taking through Ministry of Public Administration. Vehicles were also released from various Government Departments/ Ministries for Census work.
- Representatives from all the government ministries are summoned for data users conferences who provide their most important data requirements.
- In producing maps and digitizing the boundaries, DCS closely collaborated with Survey Generals Department and Urban Development Authority.

4. Impact on various parties and limitations

- In Sri Lanka Population Census 2001 was conducted after a lapse of 20 years due to security situation in Northern and Eastern provinces.
- This extended gap created adverse effects on DCS such as the non-availability of experienced staff in Census takings due to their retirements and non-exposure of young staff for the Census activities.
- Even some of the available staff who were involved in previous Census could not recall some of their valuable experiences due to the long time lag.
- However these issues were successfully addressed and now almost all the staff are very conversant with Census operational activities.
- Systematic small area data are available only after 20 years. One limitation is of course the non availability of Census data for certain districts in Northern and Eastern provinces.

- Last Population Census was held on 17th July 2001. Next Census is planned to be held on 2011