

**Fifth Management Seminar
for the Head of National Offices in Asia and the Pacific
18 - 20 September 2006, Daejeon
Republic of Korea**

1. Introduction

The authority to take a census is provided by Myanmar Census Act of 1940. At that time Myanmar was under the British administration.

Myanmar population census was taken in 1931, 1941, 1953, 1973 and 1983. Myanmar could not take regular interval census after 1983 up to now. In this paper, the experiences of the previous census taking are expressed as a background for future census taking. Procedures and arrangements as to taking previous census leading to some guide lines are all in line with generalization of Myanmar population census taking system.

2. Objectives

Statistical data relating to population as a whole and their social and economic conditions are given as priority facts. Much more comprehensive data covering social and economic characteristics of people in addition to simple demographic facts are essential. A nation wide collection of such extensive items of information is possible only by means of a census taking. The application of complete count procedure for all types of information required would be obviously out of question in view of time factor, personal resources and financial implications. Thus, the aim and purpose were to obtain necessarily needed data in a reasonable time with available resources.

The use of sampling method was considered to reduce the enumeration workload. By means of the complete population census was intended to get a complete counts of the people with information on sex, marital status and race, while the sample population census was designed to acquire wider information relating to religion, citizenship, internal migration, education, labour force and fertility.

3. Generalization on Census Operation

It is true that population census is generally accepted as a significant community-wide project and a good opportunity for building NSO's image, credibility. It is also a long-term project with covering social and economic characteristics of the people in addition to essential demographic facts. The two population-censuses had been taken before and during the Second

World War and after the war; the government was faced with the urge at the task of planning rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn the country. Statistical records were, to considerable extent, destroyed during the war. Only the 1953 population census was started after Myanmar had become an independence country in 1948. In this paper, how to conduct population census are based on the experience of 1953, especially the 1983 population census.

4. Design

In taking the later two-census, a committee was formed with a group of technical experts. The committee carried out the necessary arrangements to meet the information required. In questionnaire design, to get a complete count of the people with specific information is drawn to serve the purpose needed. By means of the complete population census, it was intended to get information on sex, marital status and race, while the sample population census was designed to acquire wide information relating to religion, citizenship, internal migration, education, labour force, income and fertility.

5. Enumeration Plan

Selection of staff, training them and practical test is a must. Lack of intelligent and skilled staff is a serious problem in taking any census. Without highly qualified staff, it is very difficult to meet the required information from well-planned and designed census area to cover the whole country. Thus, the enumeration procedure consists of the following steps after having recruited the necessary manpower.

In undertaking the 1953 population census, the experience of the previous two-census, 1931 and 1941 were used in a very effective way. The census block was formed on the basic of the number of houses. There were in one block about 50 houses on average, consisting of 200 to 300 persons.

One enumerator was assigned to be supposed for being cable of covering for a short time before midnight on the day fixed for the final enumeration. If the houses in one census block were scattering, the two enumerators were given the same duty at the very block. This system was practicable when enumeration was done simultaneously all over the country. It did not take a long time for this purpose. It was done within a day or so and only a few questions confined to simple basic demographic facts were asked. However, when the actual enumeration would have to be extended over a period of one and a half months for the purpose of collecting extensive items of information, not only of population but also of other social and economic factors. Precise and clear identification of enumerator's jurisdiction was considered essential. It is because of correct coverage

without omission and duplication.

6. Census Block Map and Structure List

A map of each census block reveals the topographical details. This is of very importance when actual operation is done. The numbers of dwelling units are indicated in the structure list and the location of each structure is described. The list is prepared ahead of the final enumeration.

Those documents are of importance for two reasons. Firstly, they served as valuable guides for completeness in enumeration. Second, the structure list forms a very useful basic frame for population census.

7. Time and Manner of Enumeration

In taking population census, the choice of a specific technique and the selection of unit in practice, involved into two distinct phases, a census type and a sampling technique. Enumeration for all the censuses extended over a period of one and a half months in all.

First of all Complete Population Census was taken. With the guidance of the census block map and structure lists enumeration was carried out in two weeks. In this census all the persons residing permanently at the place of enumeration were counted by households. All the households canvassed in a block were serially numbered in the order they were. Inmates of institutions like the hospitals, jails, asylums, public homes, aged homes, monasteries, police and army unit lines were enumerated by institutions separately from the households. A frame for use in collecting the necessary information has already given to every enumerator.

8. Structure

In brief a structure is any building (temporary or permanent) standing on the ground whether for human dwelling, business, storage or any purpose.

9. Household

A household is a family, group of relatives or unrelated persons who live together and eat, as the saying goes, out of the same pot under the same roof.

10. Institution

An institution is an organization providing a specialized service or performing some general public function for a group of inmates or residents, as for example, jail, hospital, asylum, home for old and aged, etc. A monastery, boarding school, police or army barrack are also examples of an institution.

11. How to Choose Sample Households

On complete population census schedules of each block every fifth household was selected according to a predetermined 20% sample series.

For this purpose a prescribed selection chart indicating household numbers to be selected in relation to the census block number was used. In rural area, in case there is no regular street and household number, in the block chart, the households are given the numbers in advance. In frame, the households are given or marked with number in order to be in line within selection of sample households. This selection of sample households was carried out in a two weeks' recess immediately. It was done after the complete population census enumeration.

12. Complete Population Census Schedule

This is how to carry out the system or manner of using complete population census schedule as a guide in the subsequent census, which were carried out in Myanmar. As above-mentioned, after the sample households were selected and marked Complete Population Census Schedule were used as a guide for the sample population census.

In the complete population census schedules of each block every household starting from household No.1 and serially onwards was examined and census taking was carried out as programmed before hand.

13. Population in Myanmar

Myanmar population census was taken in 1983. It was the last country wide official census in Myanmar, taken by the use of the abovementioned method.

The data are presented by State and Division, by sex and by age group; the Department, from a country wide official census taken in 1983. The whole country was covered except a few pockets of area as inaccessible to enumerators. The population of those inaccessible area is not more than 2 to 3 percent of total population.

It should be taken into account that in the following table, estimates for 1985-1993 are based on 1983 population census. Estimates for the subsequent periods are based on 1983 population census as well as on 1991 Myanmar population changes and fertility survey.

S.N	Year	Population (Million)			Annual Growth Rate
		Total	Male	Female	
1	1985-1986	37.07	18.38	18.69	1.96
2	1990-1991	40.78	20.21	20.57	1.88
3	1995-1996	44.74	22.22	22.52	1.87
4	1997-1998	46.4	23.04	23.36	1.84
5	1998-1999	48.16	23.91	24.25	2.02
6	1999-2000	49.13	24.4	24.73	2.02

7	2000-2001	50.13	24.91	25.22	2.02
8	2001-2002	51.14	25.42	25.72	2.02
9	2002-2003	52.17	25.94	26.23	2.02
10	2003-2004	53.22	26.47	26.75	2.02

Note: Estimates for 1985-93 are based on 1983 population census.

Source: Department of Population

14. Schedule Checking Operating

Checking and editing the forms already filled, scrutinizing data for inconsistencies and coding raw information play a key role to acquire reliable data. In this operation first of all completeness of coverage in the enumeration of complete Population Census was checked by comparing the Complete Population Census Schedule with structure list. Next the completeness and correctness of coverage in the enumeration of sample population was checked in detail by the supervisors.

From this stage (after schedule checking) onwards, schedule of census was handled and passed through different processing operation in the form of block folio.

15. Editing

The data collected and entered in the schedule by the enumeration staff were screened to find out inconsistencies, omissions and clerical errors which were then repaired and adjusted in accordance with prescribed instructions. The aim of this operation was to improve the quality of the statistical information. It further helped pave the way for efficient coding and the other operational stages.

16. Coding

When the enumeration data had been finally repaired and adjusted as found necessary and possible by means of editing and conversion of the information collected in words into code number was carried by using the prescribed code lists.

17. Quality Check

Statistical quality control to meet the required information is of necessity as well as importance. Trained officers and inspectors did actual checking the schedules on the spot during and immediately after the enumeration, as already explained.

18. Data Processing and Tabulating

The actual processing of the data collected in the schedules was carried out at the head office at Yangon under the close direct supervision of the Census Officers.

The census officers are classified according to the nature of data type produced from the general information collected.

Tabulation of population was completely performed by I.B.M.E.S.M Type 101 available at that time.

19. Reporting

Myanmar Census Division and the Committee for Reviewing and Summarizing data had prepared the report with general and technical aspects as well as explanatory notes where required.

20. Conclusion

Population census taking is a huge statistical operation. Population census, including census design, sample design, planning and organizing field operation, data collection, data processing and tabulation, and preparing the report is a heavy work. Government and public needs to take respective responsibility. Printed posters, lively cartoons, leaflets explaining the importance and necessity of census were widely distributed. Film slides were shown in public cinemas and by Government Publicity Departments. Radio broadcast on some census topics and short play on census, touching certain important questions were broadcast.

In a close word, concerned efforts among government, public non-government organizations and every department concerned need to be done taking full responsibility in each and every sector.

Thanks.
U Shu Kyein
Director General
CSO, Myanmar