

SHORT NOTICE ON NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS OF NEPAL

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1. Introduction

- The first population count was undertaken in Nepal in 1911.
- Since then, the process has been continuing in every ten-year.
- The earlier censuses of Nepal were not that precise as compared to the modern censuses.
- Four censuses taken before the 1952/54 census are known as “head counts”.
- The 1952/54 census was taken in two parts of the country in two different years.
- A synchronized census was taken in 1961.
- After 1961, a census has been taken in every ten years.

Population, Census Date and methodology during the 90-year period, 1911-2001

Census Year	Population	Exponential growth rate	Census day	Census Procedure
1911	5,638,749	-	-	-
1920	5,573,788	-0.13	-	-
1930	5,532,574	-0.07	-	-
1941	6,283,649	1.16	-	-
1952/54	8,256,625	2.27	22-June	Modified De-jure
1961	9,412,996	1.64	22-June	Modified De-jure
1971	11,555,983	2.05	22-June	Modified De-jure
1981	15,022,839	2.62	22-June	Modified De-jure
1991	18,491,097	2.08	22-June	Modified De-jure
2001	23,151,423	2.25	22-June	Modified De-jure

Source: CBS, 2003

2. Census Planning

- Planning for the 2001 census started from 1996; almost about five years ahead of the census year.
- A detailed calendar of operation was prepared and each activity was constantly monitored.
- The various activities considered and performed at the time of the planning stage were
 - Estimates of costs for all census activities
 - Estimates of timing
 - Check list for all the census activities
 - Preparatory works including design of the questionnaires and manuals
 - Stakeholders meetings and technical committee meetings
- Plans for census field organization
 - Manpower recruitment
 - Training of field staffs
 - Census listing and census enumeration
- Plans for publicity
- Plans for Data processing
- Plans for Printing of census results
- Plans for Analysis and evaluation of census results
- Plans for dissemination of census results
- The stepwise planning of the census played a very important role in the overall census operation.
- CBS already started the preparatory work of 2011 Census

3. Census Budget

- The total expenditure on 2001 population census was around 5 million US\$.
- However, the estimated budget for 2011 census is about 20 million US \$
- This budget covers the expenses of introducing new technology (like OMR) and infrastructure development (office building) as well as human resource development.
- Some assistance from donor was also received in 2001 census (UN inter agency- UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNIFEM and EU assistance for mapping work)

4. Difficulties-Problem Faced in 2001 census

- Budgetary constraint
- Matching of census questionnaires: In the census 2001, enumeration was carried out using two separate forms: schedule 1 and schedule 2. While processing, problem was encountered in matching the two different questionnaires for the same household
- Royal Palace incident: All census activities completely stopped and came to a coma due to the 1st June, 2001 Royal Palace Massacre.
- Political movement (Maoist insurgency): Affect Material transportation and field work

5. Methodology and Technology Used

- **Data Capture**

- Usual place of residence
- Sampling Scheme: the 2001 census collected data based on short form for the complete enumeration of the benchmark information and the long form for the sample enumeration of other socio-economic and demographic information.
- Some modifications was done in the concept of household work and extended economic activity.
- Nepal Standard Classification of Occupation and Industry were prepared and used in the data processing and tabulation

- **Mapping**

- Population Census Mapping Project (which started in 1998) prepared base maps including Aerial photographs for the northern part of the country.
- The Project also prepared the maps up to the VDC and Municipality level with ward boundary delineation. It was an improvement in the part of census mapping compared to the previous censuses.
- For large wards of the VDC the maps were further divided into sub-wards of about equal sizes so as to make the enumerator's workload more homogeneous.

- Arc-view software was used to prepare the VDC and Municipality level maps. However, Enumerators area maps (EA maps) were developed manually based on VDC and Municipality level maps with ward boundary delineation. However, for the forthcoming census digital EA maps will be developed
- Map reading manual was also developed to assist enumerators to identify the geographical area and also to identify the assign enumeration area.

- **Data Processing: steps**

- Filled in questionnaires were collected and managed at the CBS
- Manual data editing and coding
- Manual data entry and verification
- Computer data editing
- Processing and tabulations
- Due to the limited physical facilities like space, computers and personnel that were available at the CBS, data entry along with coding and editing works of the census questionnaires was outsourced to private agencies.
- Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS) was used for data entry, editing, verification and management of census data. STATA and SPSS Software Packages were used for the tabulation of the census

6. Data Dissemination

- Apart from the traditional methods of data dissemination, other modern methods were used in the 2001 census.
- These included: workshops/seminar at the centre as well as at the regional levels.
- CBS also disseminated data in the electronic media.
- Census results first published in hard copies were also made available in compact disks (CD's).