

Census and its impact on health policy



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Census: -

“Total process of collecting, compiling, and publishing demographic, economic and social data pertaining at a specific time or times to all persons in a country or delimited territory”

- First regular census in India was taken in 1981.
- System “De facto” till 1931 ,since 1941“De jure”
- Last census was held in 2011.
- Conducted at the end of 1st.quarter of the 1st. Year of each decade. Visit from 1st. Jan. completed till Feb. end and re-visit 1-5 March.
- Most people are usually resident in their own homes during this period.
- Legal basis provided by the census Act of 1948.
- Supreme officer is Census Commissioner of India.

- Enumerate by counting all persons in the area.
- Census contain a mine of information like about religion, caste, language spoken, age , sex, living condition, literacy level, occupation, socio economic status, and other basic information.

Uses of census:-

- 1.Provides demographic, social and economic data of the country.
- 2.Provides information on composition (age and sex wise) size,(total population) and distribution of population.
- 3.Helps to estimate “ mid year population” important to calculate various rate.
- 4.Helps to asses the trends of the population (population projection).
- 5.Help to formulate population policy.

- 6.Help to plan health welfare measures like school hospital etc.
- 7.Helps to compare with that of other countries.
- 8.Help to formulate social security measures like insurance etc.
- 9.Helps to asses and evaluate population control programs.
- 10.Helps to know quality of life of people.

Impact on national health policy:-

- Data provide a frame of reference and base line for –
 - Planning, action and research in the field of
 - Medicine.
 - Human ecology.
 - Social science
 - Over all governmental system.
- Census provide basic data (population by age and sex) needed to- Compute -
- vital statistical rate
- Health, demographic and socio economic indicators.

Thanks