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Subject:- Country Paper (Bangladesh).

The Country Paper (Bangladesh) is attached herewith for presentation in the inception work-shop to be held at Bangkok on May 28-31, 2002.

Please acknowledge receipt of the country paper and let me know about the travelling and accommodation arrangements.

Thank you for co-operation

Yours sincerely,

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Country Paper– Bangladesh

Enhancing Social and Gender Statistics Workshop Bangkok, Thailand May 28-31, 2002

A Organization of Statistical Services in Bangladesh.

1. Statistical Organization

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the National Statistical Organization of our country. The statistical system of Bangladesh is centralized with this organisation. BBS with its head as Director General now comprises 7 (seven) independent functional wings, namely :

- (i) National Accounting Wing
- (ii) Census Wing
- (iii) Computer Wing
- (iv) Demography and Health Wing
- (v) Industry and Labour Wing
- (vi) Agriculture Wing
- (vii) FA & MIS

Each of the Wings headed by a Director has its distinct and identified works programme (Organization Chart enclosed).

2. Agencies involved in compiling social statistics

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is the main agency for compiling social statistics. Besides, some statistical information are generated by different Line Ministries as by-products of their administrative functions or through adhoc surveys on small scale inquiries. Example of Line Ministries involved in compiling social statistics are Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare etc. BIDS, ICDDRB and different universities also collect social statistics in a limited sphere.

3. Name of Publications in which social statistics are posted.

Social statistics compiled by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics are regularly published in the (i) Statistical year book (ii) Year book of Agricultural Statistics (iii) Statistical Pocket book. Results of decennial censuses on Population, Agriculture and Economic Establishments are published as of National, District and Upazila Series. Statistical output of the surveys like Demography and Health Survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Poverty Monitoring Survey, Labour Force Survey, Child Nutrition Survey etc. are published in the independent survey based reports at regular intervals which are as follows;

- (i) Report of Sample Vital Registration System
- (ii) Report of Household Income and Expenditure survey

- (iii) Report of Health and Demographic Survey
- (iv) Report of Labour Force Survey
- (v) Child Nutrition Survey of Bangladesh

4. Indepence of Statistical agency within the government organization.

The statistical agency within the government organization is quite independent. Government has no interference in conducting and publishing the objective oriented statistical reports.

5. Personnel are involved in compiling social statistics.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics which is the central statistical agency constitutes 713 officers and 3081 staffs for collecting, processing, compiling and publishing social statistics.

6. Problems encounted in the compilation and maintenance of social statistics

In the compilation and maintenance of qualative as well as timely social statistics in Bangladesh, BBS needs additional manpower, develop skill of the existing manpower, financial and technical support for statistics management.

B. Historical Background

1. Introduction of social statistics compilation

Bangladesh inherited a decentralised statistical system at the time of its independence in 1971. Till 1975 statistical services in Bangladesh was decentralised in vrious departments of different ministries of the Govt. who used to collect and compile statistics on Population, Agriculture, Industries etc. Bureau of Statistics formerly known as East Pakistan Bureau of Statistics carried out sample surveys covering a limited sphere of social statistics.

Centralised Statistical System in Bangladesh was introduced in 1975. Since then BBS has been regularly compiling Social Statistics Services.

2. Major users of social statistics

The most important users of social statistics in Bangladesh are the development planners, policy makers and administrators of the govt. All the ministries specially ministry of Food, Agriculture, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Social Welfare, Industry etc. use our compiled series. Besides researchers of different govt and non govt. organizations, autonomous organizations, universities use BBS data, International organisations like UNDP, World Bank, WHO, FAO etc. also use social statistics compiled by the BBS.

3. Use of these statistics

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has a rich library equipped with all census and survey reports. Besides complimentary copies of each of the publications are supplied to the Heads of all the ministries. There is also a sales centre within the office premise. Users can directly or through mail purchase compiled reports from there.

4. List of regularly compiled social statistics series with frequency and time of release.

The following social statistics series are regularly compiled by the BBS.

- i) Statistical Year book - Yearly.
- ii) Statistical Pocket book - Yearly
- iii) Year book of Agriculture - Yearly
- iv) Household Income and Expenditure Survey-2 years interval
- v) Labour Force Survey-3 years interval
- vi) Sample Vital Registration System-Yearly
- vii) Child Nutrition Survey-2 years interval

Preliminary census report is released within six months, other reports on census are released within 2-3 years of the census operation. Survey reports are generally published after one year/two years of the survey.

5. Available most current series

The most current series of social statistics compiled by the BBS are :

- i) Health and Demographic Survey Reports-2001
- ii) Household Income and Expenditure Survey (Preliminary Report)-2000
- iii) Population Census (Preliminary Report)-2001
- iv) Statistical Pocket Book-2000
- v) Statistical Year Book-1999

C. Data Sources:

1. Censuses, Surveys and administrative records used for compilation.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) compiles data on social statistics from the following sources: i) Population Census and the reports covering population, household and housing characteristics, ii) Health and demographic survey reports provide demographic and morbidity status of population, iii) Medical facilities related information and data from the office of the Director-General of Health Services (Health Information Unit), iv) Data regarding Family Planning activities published by the Directorate of Family Planning, v) Data on safe drinking water and sanitary latrines from the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), vi) Data about amusement, newspapers and magazines from Deputy Commissioners of Districts and by the Department of Films and Publications, vii) Judiciary information about Lawyers and Bars

published by the Bangladesh Bar Council, viii) Data about crimes by type from the Police Department.

2. Frequency of collection/measurement.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the only governmental organization responsible for conducting Population Census, Economic Census and Agriculture Census once in every ten years. After independence first Population Census was conducted in 1974. This was followed by 1981 and then 1991 and most recently 2001. Data on birth & death once in a month, marriage & divorce once in every quarter and migration twice in a year are collected through the Vital Registration System. Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Child Nutrition Survey and Labour Force Survey are conducted at 2-3 years interval. Required data from secondary sources are collected once in every year.

3. Time lag of data release

Preliminary Census Reports are normally published within six months and National Volume; District Census Reports and analytical reports are published within two to three years of the Census operation. survey Reports are generally published after one/two year(s) of the survey. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) published Yearly Statistical book of Bangladesh. it presents comprehensive statistical data and information covering all sectors of the national statistics. In short format BBS publishes the Statistical Pocket Book. But BBS has no exclusive social statistics publication of its own.

Sometimes due to lack of manpower, absence of adequate fund and delay in receipt of returns from the secondary sources delayed compilation and release of reports 1-2 years from the schedule time.

4. Use of the data

Data those are collected from the field either through censuses or surveys are compiled and published in a report form in respective census or survey report. Data collected from secondary sources are compiled and posted generally in the Statistical Year Book and Statistical Pocket Book and sometimes in community level statistics published separately.

5. Agencies responsible for each of the Social Statistics

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is the only Government organization which is responsible for the social statistics given below :-

-(a) the demographic characteristics which covers household composition, marital status, fertility, mortality, age, sex, migration and so on.

-(b) the social environment is taken to cover all the social and economic factors to which people are subject, including occupation and income as well as housing conditions and social amenities.

-© the behaviour and activities mean 'what people do' , for instance use of leisure, travelling habits, expenditure patterns, television viewing, radio listening and newspaper reading.

-(d) related statistics on the issues of health, nutrition and education.

Outside the Government there are some NGO's like BRAC, ICDDR, PROSHIKA, Pathfinder Fund etc. are produced statistics based on a small sample in target area for their own consumption.

6. Sample surveys in between census years, sample design and data coverage

In between Census years BBS conducts Sample Vital Registration Survey, Health and Demographic Survey, HES, Child Nutrition Survey, Survey on Manufacturing Industries, etc.

Sample design of Sample Vital Registration System.

SVRS has been conducting survey throughout the country taking 500 Primary Sampling Units (PSU) of which 320 are from rural areas and 180 from urban areas. Each PSU consists of around 250 households.

For the purpose of this survey, seventy nine pourachavas or municipal areas including 6 metropolitan Cities (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet) were considered as urban areas. Areas excluding 79 Urban Pourashavas and 6 metropolitan cities considered Rural universe. Rural areas therefore, included Upazila headquarters, Hats and Bazaars with electricity i.e. areas defined as other Urban areas in the 1981 Population Census. Cantonments, institutions like hotels, barracks, Messes, jails etc. were excluded from the preview of the survey. De-jure definition of Population was followed.

Sample design of Health and Demographic Survey.

The Integrated Multi-purpose Sampling (IMPS) is a nationally representative two-stage design that has been developed using the result of Population Census 1991 and is being used for conducting survey on Demography and Morbidity/Health status of the Population.

For the preparation of IMPS design the country has been divided into six administrative divisions, 64 districts and 493 upazilas. In Rural areas upazilas are divided into unions and then mauzas, a land administrative unit. Urban areas are divided into wards and then mahallas. Each of the six divisions was stratified into three groups, i.e.

- 1) Statistical Metropolitan Area (SMAs),
- 2) Municipalities (Urban areas) and
- 3) Rural areas.

Statistical Metropolitan Areas and Municipalities constitute urban sample areas. The IMPS covers 372 PSUs (Rural 252 and Urban 120) distributed all over Bangladesh following a scientific sampling procedure.

Sample design of Household Income and Expenditure Survey and Child Nutrition Survey.

A two stage stratified random sampling technique was followed in drawing sample for HES 2000 under the framework of Integrated Multipurpose Sample (IMPS) design developed on the basis of Population and Housing Census 1991. The design consists of 442 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) throughout the country. There are 252 rural and 190 urban PSUs in the sample. The PSU is defined as contiguous two or more enumeration areas (EA) used in Population and Housing Census 1991. Each PSU comprises of around 250 households. In the first stage a total of 442 PSUs were drawn from the sample frame with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS). These PSU were selected from the 14 different strata. There were 5 rural and 9 urban strata. Urban strata includes 4 Statistical Metropolitan Area (SMA) and 5 municipal areas. In the second stage, 20 households were selected from each of the rural PSUs and PSUs located at the municipal areas, 10 households were selected from the PSUs located at the Statistical Metropolitan Areas (SMA's).

Data coverage

SVRS Covers data on housing and household characteristics, Population characteristics, Occurance of births and deaths, causes of death, marriage and migration.

HDS covers data on population structure, maternal and child care, use of contraceptives, awariness of community clinics, awariness of causes of HIV/AIDS transmission, morbidity, treatment status, treatment expenditure , sources of drugs and supplies, duration of sickness, disability occurrence of births and deaths, causes of death etc.

HES covers data on household and population characteristics, household income and expenditure, food and nutrition, poverty, housing condition, education, health and selected community characteristics.

CNS covers data on nutrition situation, household food security, child care practices, health and environment etc.

7. Vital Registration System

BBS has been conducting Survey on Vital Registration System since 1980. To maintain data regularly and importance in national policy and strategy determination, strengthening of Sample Vital Registration System has been undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh and its function and activities will be started soon.

D. Estimation Methodology

1. Estimates

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics produces Statistics either from census data or estimates based on survey results. No indirect estimates are produced or generated by BBS except for estimation of National Income Statistics where income from some of the sectors are not directly available.

2. Most common problems encountered in the compilation of social statistics

We follow the traditional method of data collection through interviewing respondents by the enumerators. Before sending enumerators to the field we always impart vigorous training to them for each of the survey or census. At the time of data collection these enumerators are supervised by efficient supervisors selected from different tiers. We always adopt some principles of editing the collected data at the field level. Still we are experiencing some problems at the time of compilation of the collected data. The most common problems encountered in the compilation of social statistics are mentioned below.

- Determination of actual age especially for the female segment of our country.
- Determination of actual income as well as sources also.
- Tendency to express more expenditure than the actual income
- Try to not answer various social related questions.
- If there is some essence of benefit, people try to exaggerate their answers.

3. Support from the officials of the agency and from international organizations

In Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) there is a strong infra-structure throughout the country. The setup extended to the Thana level Via district and regional level. In each of the Thana there are four personals to conduct any regular and special works. Any output of the estimate depends substantially on the support of the field offices in the field level. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics comprises 23 Regional Statistics Offices (RSO) in each of the greater district of Bangladesh. They are the controlling authority for the 64 District Offices as well as Thana Offices. It can easily be said that Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has a robust base for any kind of in-depth research.

International organizations are paying more attention regarding Household Expenditure Survey (HES) , Child Nutrition Survey, Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS), Strengthening National Income Accounts of Bangladesh, and Regular Poverty Monitoring etc.

More over international organizations provide assistance to conduct different censuses throughout the country.

4. Derivation of social statistics using the vital registration system

We do use vital registration system to derive social Statistics. For the SVRS, Chandra Sekharan – Deming dual recording system was introduced. Under system-1, a local registrar was appointed in each PSU who collected in the prescribed form data on vital events such as birth, death, marriage and migration as and when they occurred. They then sent the filled-in schedules to the headquarters according to set time schedule. Under system-2, staff members of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) collected retrospective data on quarterly basis using the same schedules. The filled-in schedules obtained from system-1 and system-2 were then matched. The un-matched cases were returned to the field for verification. Final estimates were produced combining the outcome of both the system. As a result, more reliable estimates were obtained by this method as compared to any other methods.

5. Level of disaggregation for social statistics with gender breakdown

In Bangladesh gender issue is the most common factor. For any survey or census, we have to keep the issue first in mind. Certainly any estimates of the social matter are derived on the basis of gender. And these estimates are derived at the level of Thana of Bangladesh. Thana is the finest level of disaggregation for gender issues. In Bangladesh gender issue is not at early stage. So, the social statistics with gender breakdown is quite good.

E. Social Statistics Compilation Programme.

1. Plans for compiling social and gender statistics, its demand and support from the officials

Though the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics compile social and gender statistics on a regular basis still it has limitations. But it has an effort to serve the users demand in some of the sectors, say for education, health, population, agriculture etc. in time-to-time. We feel that there is a demand for social and specially in the case of gender break down statistics are increasing gradually by the Non Government Voluntary Development Organizations as well as International Financing Agencies for Economic Development planning so as to run their development activities properly. We cannot meet all sorts of demand all the time and we are not getting any support from the officials of any agency whenever we take any initiative to compile such statistics. Still if I get an opportunity, I have a plan in my mind to compile gender statistics from the publications published by different Agencies to make them available in a single book.

2. Most suitable unit in the office to compile social and gender statistics with the available personnel

Newly reorganised Demography and Health Wing of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is comprised mostly with the officers and staffs of the former Research, Training and Sample

Survey Wing of the then Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. At present Demography and Health Wing is mainly conducting survey on vital events through a programme of vital registration system to derive vital statistics on annual basis. The strength of this Wing is in all 97 personnel out of which 59 are absolutely for statistical job. They are well trained in field as well as desk work. This unit is most suitable to compile social and gender statistics. Moreover, the skilled manpower of the three completed development projects which are under the control of this Wing and in the process of transfer to the revenue budget may be utilised at the time of compilation.

3. Availability of data that could be used to compile social statistics

Recently Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has conducted Population and housing Census throughout the country and Economic census in urban and other urban areas. It has also vital registration system in 500 sample PSUs. throughout the year. Data generated from population and housing Census, Economic Census and vital registration system might be used to compile social statistics. Besides these, data from Child Nutrition Surveys, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Demography and Health Survey, Labour Force Survey may also be used to compile social statistics at the same time.

4. Workable time frame

The workable time for compilation of social statistics from the censuses and surveys data would be about a year subject to the release of the reports or publications.

It is suggested that for improvement of social statistics initiative should be taken to bring all the countries within the pervue of regular compilation of social and gender statistics following uniform concepts and definations.

Social and gender statistics compilation programme would be at the lowest administrative unit level based to facilitate sub-national and community level development planning.

Technical as well as financial support from multilateral agencies would have to be strengthened. Scope to be widened/enhanced for developing skill of the personnel engaged in compiling social statistics. Computer net work may help monitoring, evaluating implementing and updating social statistics compilation programmes.

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