

The views expressed in this paper are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Board of Directors or the governments they represent. ADB makes no representation concerning and does not guarantee the source, originality, accuracy, completeness or reliability of any statement, information, data, finding, interpretation, advice, opinion, or view presented.

# **Country Report -- Thailand**

## **Enhancing Social and Gender Statistics**

### **1. The National statistics system**

The current statistics system of Thailand is decentralized system. The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the core body that collect basic statistical data while other agencies in various ministries and departments also issue there own statistical data which mostly used for their internal affair.

The NSO is under the office of the Prime Minister. It is divided into the central and the local administrations. The Social Statistical Division is one of the divisions in the central administration. This division is responsible for conducting censuses and surveys on social issue, performing statistical analysis on social data and also compilation social statistics for producing social indicators.

The divisions provide and serve the information to general public, government and private. Users should trust in the accuracy and objectivity of the office data. The government support only budget to carry out data, but the collection, analysis and report process should decide by professional staff.

There are 35 civil servants and 53 temporary employees in social division that is responsible for all jobs. The personnel who compile social statistics are 5.

The problem in compilation and maintenance of social statistics are the information being not up – to – date, the different of conception and methodology and rare data such as environment statistics.

### **2. Historical Background**

The first social statistics / indicators compiled in by NESDB for evaluating the national plan. Since 1994, the NSO has been responsible for collecting social statistics every three years. The latest was in 1997.

The social statistics used to indicate the progress of social situation. The crisis in 1997, the policy maker needs the data for monitoring and evaluation the overall social issue. And, also the ninth economic and social plan emphasis in human development and social development. So, the major users of social statistics are policy maker who related for policy – making, monitoring and evaluating programs and projects in social's development and the researcher. International organization is also one of the user of this field that it use for inter–country comparison.

In 1995, NSO started to compiled gender statistics, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). The statistics and indicators on situation of women are needed to improve the scope and quality of information. The aim of this is to collect relevant statistics and indicators as well as their availability, source and limitations. At present, NSO procedures this report every two years.

### **3. Data Source**

Social statistics are compiled by using data from census and survey. These data are collected by NSO and other offices such as Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment etc. Besides, administration records are employed such as vital registration, health report form, etc. Sampling design for survey conducting by NSO is two – stratified two stage sampling.

## **3.1 Survey and census**

### **3.1.1 Population and Housing Census**

The NSO has been responsible for undertaking population census every ten years since 1960. The first housing census was conducted with seven population census in 1970. In April 2000 the tenth population and fourth housing was carried out. Census taking in Thailand is in accordance with the recommendation by United Nations. The census covers question on basic characteristics of population, social – economic characteristics, migration, fertility and housing.

### **3.1.2 Survey of Population Change**

The NSO conducts this survey usually during the intercensal period to obtain national estimates of vital statistics (birth and death rates and the rate of population growth) and to provide data on fertility mortality and family planning. The survey also, evaluated the completeness of the official registration system.

### **3.1.3 The Health and Welfare Survey**

The NSO conducts the survey every five years until 2003, it changes to conduct every two years. The purpose of this survey is to obtain the data on health status and symptoms, medical care received, health welfare, risk behavior.

### **3.1.4 The Labor Force Survey**

The labor force survey has been undertaken by NSO since 1963. Beginning 1971, two rounds of the survey for whole kingdom had been conducted each year.

Commencing from the year 1984, another round of survey had been conducted additionally.

This survey carry out monthly instead of quarterly since January 2001. The aim is to estimate the number and characteristics of the labor force in the country for example work status, characteristic of unemployed persons.

### **3.1.5 The Survey of health examination**

The Ministry of Public Health has been responsible for conducting health data by interviewing and physical check for individual persons, such as blood tests, height and body weight for nutrition check etc. The first survey conducted in 1996. At present, the third survey conducted in 2001, but it covered only 14 provinces.

### **3.1.6 Others**

The others survey that used data for calculate indicator, for example using income and expenditure from social and economic survey to calculate gini coefficient or population below poverty line.

Environment statistics are complied from all existing lines agencies for example Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative (such as land, deforested land etc.), Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (such as pollution).

## **3.2 Administrative record**

### **3.2.1 Health report form**

### **3.2.2 National budget report**

### **3.2.3 Report of education**

## **3.3 Vital registration system**

The other major data source of demographic statistics is the civil registration system. The dual functions served by the civil registration records as a legal and administrative instrument. The vital statistics derived from the civil registration system is considered as the only source that can provide in the long term. Vital registration data can be used to estimate fertility and mortality trends on an annual basis.

The estimated fertility and mortality trends using vital registration data with assumptions about the extent of underregistration (such as risk group with no taking care of pregnancy or the delivering by midwife or traditional obstetricians). The application of demographic model indicated only roughly trends.

The old system, the data is collected from certificate (birth and death) which has 3 part. The first part handed to the informer, the second submitted to registration Administration Bureau, Ministry of Interior and the last one submitted to district health office.

Since 1996, the government changed to new system. The only 1 part of certified is handed to the informer, and the data is electronically sent to Registration Bureau. So the vital statistics have presented every year.

## **4. Estimation Methodology**

Many indirect estimates of demographic analysis had been applied to the data of the census and survey.

- Fertility : Palmore – Regression method, Rele method and Own – children method using to calculated age – specific fertility rate and total fertility rate with the assumption constant fertility in the past.
- Mortality : Trussel method using to calculated Infant and child mortality rate with the west model of life table.

## **5. Social Statistical Compilation Program**

- Insufficient social statistical that compiling by time series, so the using indirect methods for estimate are necessary. The NSO has requested the technical assistance that train personnel on estimation indirect methods or package program.
- The NSO also plan to request the technical assistance to improve the quality of social statistics and indicators in terms of the preparation, methodology and analysis.
- Considerations need to be given on improving and refining methodology, conception coverage of the social statistics in respect of international comparability.