

1

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

 Figures  Maps  Tables/Statements  Notes



1

Introductory Note

Census 2011 marks a milestone in the history of Census taking in the country. It has come at a time when India is perhaps at an inflexion point in history, when it sheds the legacy of the past and emerges among the comity of Nations as a strong, self-reliant and modern Nation. The basic benchmark statistics on the state of human resources, demography, culture and economic structure at this crucial juncture of the country's history would be vital to guide and shape the future course of the Nation.

In a country like India, with multiethnic, multilingual, multicultural and multilevel society, the Census is much more than a mere head count of the population. It gives a snapshot of not only the demographic but also the economic, social and cultural profile of the country at a particular point of time. More often than not, it is the only available source of primary data at the level of the village and town (ward). It provides valuable information for planning and formulation of policies by the Government and is also used widely by National and International agencies, scholars, business persons, industrialists, and many more. In addition, the Census provides a basic frame for conduct of other surveys in the country. Any informed decision making that is based on empirical data is dependent on the Census. Democratic processes like the delimitation of electoral constituencies and affirmative action like reservation are also based on the basic data sets of the Census. It has indeed come a long way from what was described as "the idle curiosity of an eccentric sirkar" (Molony, 1911)¹. No wonder therefore, that Census 2011 has adopted an apt tagline – "Our Census, Our Future"!

Notes

1. J. Chartres Molony, Superintendent of Census, Madras, 1911: "The Village Officer, source of all Indian information, is the recorder of his village, and it well may be that amid the toils of keeping accounts and collecting mamuls, he pays scant heed to what he and his friends consider the idle curiosity of an eccentric sirkar".



Enumeration of Hon'ble President of India

What is a Population Census?

1.4. A population census is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well delimited part of a country.

1.5. Population is basic to the production and distribution of material wealth. In order to plan for, and implement, economic and social development, administrative activity or scientific research, it is necessary to have reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population. The population census is a primary source of these basic benchmark statistics, covering not only the settled population but also homeless persons and nomadic groups. Data from population censuses should allow presentation and analysis in terms of statistics on persons and households and for a wide variety of geographical units, ranging from the country as a whole to individual small localities or city blocks.

- Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 2). United Nations : New York : 2008.

Notes

2. Christophe Guilmo: "1871 is probably the turning point of the statistical history of India owing to the inception of a century long tradition of decennial censuses which in turn triggered a new development in the monitoring of socio demographic phenomena like famines, epidemiology or the natural increase of population"
3. Dr. W.R.Cornish, Superintendent of Census Operations, Madras, 1871: "The estimates of population of Madras previous to 1867 had been so various and the direct censuses of 1822 and 1863 were so untrustworthy that it had been found utterly impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to the actual number of people..."
4. Rev C.W.Ranson: "...for the period prior to 1871, we are dependent for our knowledge of the growth of population of Madras upon estimates which at their best represent only informed guesswork and at their worst wildest conjecture".

HISTORY

The earliest references of Census taking in India can be traced back to the Mauryan period in Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' (321-296 BC) and later during the Mughal period in the writings of Abul Fazl (1595-96) in the 'Ain-e-Akbari'. Records have it that in 1687, during the Governorship of Elihu Yale in Madras Presidency, the King of England desired that a count of the inhabitants of Fort St George be taken. This however was not followed up until 1872. A count was also taken up in 1853 in the North Western Frontier, which was followed by a series of Census like enumerations. However these "were not censuses but simple head counts" (Guilmo)² and were so evidently untrustworthy that it had long been found utterly impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion" (Cornish)³. Another description of the counts prior to 1871 describes them as "at their best represent only informed guesswork and at their worst wildest conjecture" (Ranson)⁴. A systematic and modern population Census, in its present scientific form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in different parts of the country. This effort culminating in 1872 has been popularly labelled as the first population Census of India (the first synchronous Census in India was however conducted in 1881).



Enumeration of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Rig Veda:	800-600 BC
Arthashastra:	321-296 BC
Ain-e-Akbari:	1595-96
1st systematic census conducted all over India (non synchronous):	1865-1872
First Synchronous Census conducted all over India:	1881
First Census of Independent India:	1951
2011 Census:	the 15th since 1872, 7th since Independence

An unbroken chain of Censuses since then, gives the Indian Census a unique historical legacy unparalleled in the world. Census 2011 is the fifteenth Census in this continuous series from 1872 and the seventh since Independence.

METHODOLOGY

The Census of India is conducted once in a decade, following an extended *de facto* canvasser method. Under this approach, data is collected from every individual by visiting the household and canvassing the same questionnaire all over the country, over a period of three weeks. The count is then updated to the reference date and time, by conducting a Revision Round. In the Revision Round, any changes in the entries that arise on account of births, deaths and migration between the time of the enumerators visit and the reference date/time is noted down and the record updated.

In Censuses until 1931, a synchronous *de facto* method was adopted wherein the Census was conducted throughout the country on a single night. This method, besides being costly, required the deployment of an extremely large force of Census takers. This method was given up in the 1941 Census and the present method adopted.

In Census 2011, the canvassing of the questionnaire was done from 9th of February 2011 to 28th of February 2011. A Revision Round was then conducted from 1st to 5th of March 2011 and the count updated to the Reference Moment of 00:00 hours on the 1st of March 2011.

An exception to this was made with respect to a few specific areas in the country which are snow-bound in February. The areas included certain charges in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. In these locations, the canvassing of the questionnaire was done from 11th September 2010 to 30th September 2010. A Revision Round was then conducted from 1st to 5th of October 2010.



Hon'ble Home Minister of India, signing the Household Schedule after Enumeration

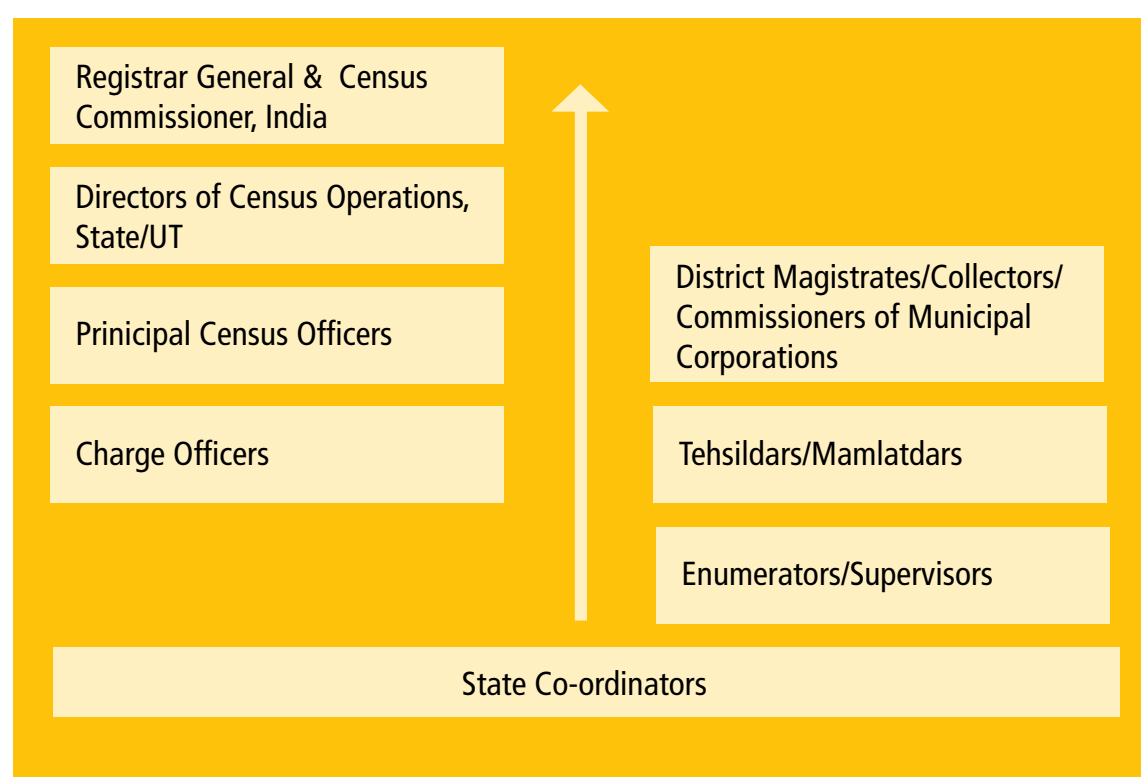
Reference Date and the Method of Census taking from 1872 to 2011 Census		
Census	Reference Date	Method
1872	21st February	de facto (Non-Synchronous)
1881	17th February	de facto (Synchronous)
1891	26th February	de facto (Synchronous)
1901	1st March	de facto (Synchronous)
1911	10st March	de facto (Synchronous)
1921	18th March	de facto (Synchronous)
1931	26th February	de facto (Synchronous)
1941	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
1951	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
1961	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
1971	1st April	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
1981	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
1991	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
2001	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)
2011	1st March	Extended de facto (Synchronous)

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

In India, the population Census is a Union Subject (Article 246) and is listed at serial number 69 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Census Act, 1948 forms the legal basis for the conduct of Censuses in independent India. Although the Census Act is an instrument of Central Legislation, in the scheme of its execution the State Governments provide the administrative support for the actual conduct of the Census.

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India is an attached office under the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. Its main responsibility is to conceive, plan and implement Census taking in the country. The organization is headed by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. There are field offices in all the States and Union Territories (except the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, which are attached to the office at Gujarat). The field officers are headed by the Directors of Census Operations, who are responsible for the conduct of Census in their respective jurisdictions. The list of the Directors of Census Operations of all the States/Union Territories along with their date of joining is given at Annexure -I

Hierarchy of Census functionaries in India



PLANNING FOR CENSUS 2011

Freezing of Administrative Boundaries

The first step towards Census taking relates to preparation of a complete and unduplicated list of all geographical entities in the country, which includes States, Districts, Tehsils/Taluks/Community Development (CD) Blocks and Villages/Towns at a particular point of time. All administrative units in the States/UTs across the country were frozen as on 31st December 2009.

This exercise also involved obtaining the latest maps of States/Union Territories, Districts, Tehsils / Taluks / CD Blocks and Towns etc. The number of Administrative Units in the country as on the cut-off date is given in the box.

Number of Administrative Units in Census 2011	
States/UT's	35
Districts	640
Sub-Districts	5,924
Towns	7,936

A Directory of Administrative Units with unique Identification Code for each unit was prepared. This ensured that every Administrative Unit is covered without omission or duplication. A unique feature of the coding system in Census 2011 is that it identifies Villages, Statutory Towns, Census Towns and Forest Villages as separate series.

The finalisation of the Rural-Urban frame, an exercise to prepare a complete up to date list of Statutory and Census Towns for identification as Urban areas and the Villages as Rural areas was also done as a part of the pre Census activities. The demarcation of Out Growths of Towns and Urban Agglomerations was also taken up as a part of this exercise. There are 3,893 Census Towns, 999 Out Growths and 476 Urban Agglomerations that have been demarcated in Census 2011.

Permanent Location Code

One of the important inputs in Census taking is assigning of the Location code Numbers at various administrative levels. The Location Code Number is a simple device by which every compact geographical area in any Administrative Unit can be uniquely identified. Each such Administrative Unit starting from State right down to the village/ward can be referred to by a combination of such unique numbers. Until the 1991 Census, a hierarchical coding system was followed, whereby each administrative unit was coded within the next higher Administrative Unit serially and systematically following a geographical order.

The frequent changes in District and Sub-district Administrative Units during the inter-census period posed several problems to study the changes in growth and distribution of population and their characteristics from one Census to another. For the Census of India, 2001, a system of Permanent Location Code Numbers (PLCN) had been adopted by assigning to each village within the State/UT a continuous series of numbers. Each village had been assigned an eight digit code. The first six digits represent the code of the Village as existing at the present Census. The last two digits are kept '00' for accommodating future changes in case of split of an existing village or creation of new villages etc. Since the permanent Location Codes have been assigned to each village, theoretically tracing the precise location of village on account of future jurisdictional changes in the boundaries of various administrative areas within the State should not pose a problem.

While the basic schema of Census 2001 has been retained, some improvements have been made. Firstly, the State and District Codes were pre-printed on the Schedules. Secondly, short codes were introduced for field work in order to reduce the scriptory work of enumerators – 2 digits (within the State), 3 digits in the case of Sub-districts (within the District), and 4 digits in the case of Villages and Towns (within a Sub-district). Thirdly, normal Villages have been given a range between 0001 and 5999, while Forest Villages have been given a range between 6000-6999. Fourthly, Statutory Towns have been given Codes within the range of 7001-7999 and Census Towns are covered in the range of 8001-8999. This makes it easy to distinguish each type of Administrative Unit clearly. This is however only for the purpose of field work. In the detailed presentations of data, the full Codes will be given.

CARTOGRAPHY

The availability of accurate maps as per the latest administrative boundaries is a pre-requisite for Census. The Cartographic Division of the Census Organisation has evolved over the years and is now the largest producer of Thematic Maps in the country. It has come a long way from the traditional manual cartographic methods used until 1981 and now utilizes the latest GIS software to produce digital maps. The latest addition in Census 2011 is the preparation of satellite imagery based digital maps at the street and building level in 33 Capital Cities of the country. These digital maps were used effectively to carve out the Enumeration Blocks in both phases of the Census.

47 new Districts, 461 new Sub Districts, 244 new Statutory Towns and several new Villages have come up since 2001. Maps of all these Administrative Units have been obtained and have been updated. Extensive changes have also occurred in the existing boundaries of the Towns. All these changes have also been incorporated in the maps.



Satellite imagery of a Capital city and the digital map prepared from it

An added feature in Census 2011 was that print-outs of maps showing the boundary of every Village/Town were provided to the Charge Officers to mark the position of Enumeration Blocks on these. This was aimed at reducing the chance of any omission or duplication of areas.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

As part of the Census preparations, the first Data Users' Conference was held in April 2008. In this Conference, consultations were held with all stakeholders comprising representatives of various Ministries of Government of India, State Governments, National and International voluntary organisations, Population Research Centres, Statistical Institutions, Universities, eminent demographers and social scientists. Based on the deliberations of the Conference, a draft Questionnaire was developed and placed for discussion before the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In order to finalise the Questionnaire and advise the Census Organisation, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was constituted by the Government of India on 30th September 2008. The List of Members of the Advisory Committee is at Annexure II. The TAC held three Meetings on 25th November 2008, 9th October 2009 and 23rd June 2010.

PRE TEST OF QUESTIONS

The Census Questionnaire was piloted and pre-Tested in the field in all States and Union Territories from 28th June 2009 to 17th August 2009. The Notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India on 8th April 2009.

The pre-Test was conducted as a full scale exercise, a virtual rehearsal of the Census. It was conducted in 53 rural and 32 urban Charges. The rural charges were chosen at the rate of two in bigger and one in smaller States/UTs except A&N Islands. It included 201 Villages where 550 Houselisting Blocks were formed. This constituted 60,327 Buildings in which 81,471 Census Houses and 59,047 Households were enumerated.

In urban areas, 32 Charges (one in each State/UT except Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep), comprising 32 Wards/ part-Wards were covered. In all 554 Houselisting Blocks were carved out in urban areas which consisted of 58,366 Buildings, 1,19,955 Census Houses and 67,279 Households.

The results and the field experiences of the pre-Test were discussed in a Conference of the Directors of Census Operations and a draft Questionnaire was finalised for the consideration of the Technical Advisory Committee.

NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF CENSUS OF INDIA 2011

The Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990. The statute requires the Notification of various processes under provisions of the above Act and Rules. Accordingly, various processes have been duly notified in the Gazette of India after following the processes laid down. The various Notifications are listed below:

- The Notification regarding the intention of the Government of India to conduct a Census of the population of India in 2011 was published in the Gazette of India on 20th February 2009.
- In the same Notification, the Reference Date was also notified as 00.00 hours of the first day of March 2011 (except for the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand). In the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand the Reference Date was notified as 00.00 hours of the first day of October 2010.
- The Notification regarding the non synchronous areas (snow-bound) in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand was published in the Gazette of India on 20th February 2009.
- The Notification regarding the conduct of Houselisting and Housing Census from 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 in different States and Union Territories was published in the Gazette of India on 25th February 2010.

- The questions proposed to be canvassed during the Houselisting and Housing Census was also published in the same Notification.
- The Notification regarding the questions to be canvassed in the Population Enumeration was published in the Gazette of India on 31st August 2010.

FINALISATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES

The TAC considered the draft Questionnaire and keeping in view the demands of the data users and the available resources within the organization and the States, made valuable suggestions for improving its form and content.

The final Questionnaire was then put up for the consideration of the Government of India. The Government of India gave its assent to the two Questionnaires after which the Questions to be asked in the Houselisting and Housing Census and Population Enumeration which were duly published in the Gazette of India.

In 2001, two Schedules – one for Houselisting and another for Population Enumeration were canvassed. The same approach has been followed in Census 2011.

In all 35 Questions were canvassed in the Houselisting and Housing Census Schedule and 29 Questions in the Household Schedule (Population Enumeration).

The final Questionnaires developed and canvassed for the Census 2011- the Houselisting and Housing Census Schedule and the Household Schedule are placed at Annexure-III

PRINTING

A feature that makes the Indian Census particularly complex is that the Schedules are canvassed in 16 languages and the Instruction Manuals are developed in 18 languages.

The requirement is also huge - 5.4 million Instruction Manuals and 340 million Census Schedules. To add to the complexity, the Schedules had to be printed on special grade paper, the specifications for which were evolved in India for the first time in consultation with experts in scanning technology and paper technologists. The services of the National Institute of Design,

Ahmedabad were utilized to upgrade the quality and aesthetics of the Schedule. Unique features that make it stand out are Bar Codes in each Schedule, Unique Form Numbers, Pre Printing of certain Location Particulars, Uniform quality of printing and colour drop-out facility. This required printing in high end Presses having facility of variable printing and very high production volumes. That the entire quantity of material has been printed within the stringent timelines and with strict adherence to quality is a feat in itself. Approximately 12,000 Metric Tonnes of paper of various grades have been procured for this purpose. The result is that the Indian Census Schedules are comparable with the best in class internationally.



Printing of Houselist and Housing Census Schedules in progress in a high-end Press

LOGISTICS

The task of making available all the materials required for conducting the Census – Enumerators Kits, Instruction Manuals and other training materials, Census Schedules in the right quantity and in the right language to the Charge Officers (approximately 17, 000 in number) and the reverse collection of filled in Schedules and other material, as can well be imagined is a logistical nightmare. Adding to the complexity is the fact that each Charge may use material in several languages. The first task was therefore to prepare an accurate database of Charge-wise requirement of materials. The next task was to pack the materials as per the database, address each package correctly and



Printing

Material from high end Presses
Material from Government/Private Presses

Packing

As per database
Packing and Address Labelling

Despatch

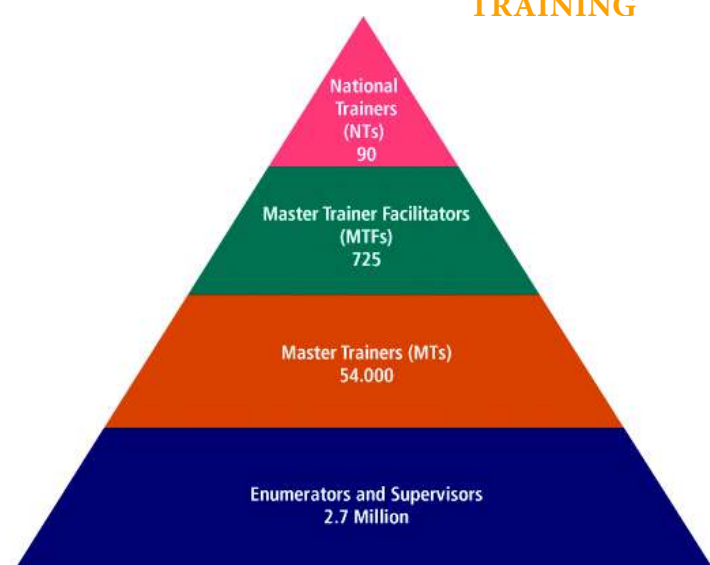
Despatched to more than 17,000 locations
Return Collection

Logistics: A successful partnership with India Post

have them shipped out to each location. The printing was done at locations spread all over the country with varying levels of efficiency, which added to the challenge. It is a matter of satisfaction that the entire task of printing and packing of materials was accomplished in time and with a fair degree of efficiency.

As regards the transportation of materials, a pioneering initiative of using the India Post for handling the logistics was undertaken. A special 'Logistics Post' arrangement was put in place by India Post for the Census 2011. Though there were a few operational problems, the precision with which the entire logistics operation was accomplished within a very short period of time, is remarkable.

TRAINING



The need for comprehensive training of all functionaries, especially the Enumerators and Supervisors can hardly be underscored. A three tier cascade of training was devised for this purpose. At the top of the pyramid were a group of National Trainers, 90 in number. This group was rigorously trained for 5 days at a residential training camp. The National Trainers trained 725 Master Trainer Facilitators (MTFs) at the State level. The MTFs in turn, trained 54,000 Master Trainers (MTs) at the District level. The MTs ultimately trained the 2.7 million Enumerators and Supervisors at the field level.

Special efforts have been taken to improve the Instruction



Training Class in progress



Snapshot from the e-Learning module explaining census concepts

Manuals by including more illustrations and examples. Training Guides have also been prepared. The Trainers at each level – National, State and District levels have been given intensive in-house training and provided training aids, such as Power Point presentations, e-Learning Modules, scripts of Role Plays and Practice Sheets. Special training modules have been developed for explaining the issues relating to disability and gender. Special Training modules have also been developed and rendered in Gender sensitive Districts. It needs mention that the entire training strategy has been a collaborative effort between the UN Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN WOMEN) on one hand and the Census Organisation on the other.

A new feature in Census 2011 has been the utilisation of Non-Governmental Agencies in the training effort. In order to supplement the manpower deployed for training by the Directorates of Census Operations of the States/UTs, trained manpower from NGOs was also utilised. In addition, volunteers from NGOs working in the field of disability and gender were associated with Census 2011 for sensitising the trainers at National, State and District levels.



Sachin Tendulkar, Celebrated Cricketer, helping to propagate the message on Census 2011.



Census in Schools - A new initiative

PUBLICITY

All modes of Publicity - Mass media, Public relations, Outreach activities and Digital media have been used to spread awareness and enlist the cooperation of all stakeholders. A scientific media plan was designed by a professional agency that also created the media content in both the phases of the Census. While the general theme was that of including everybody without omission, special emphasis was laid on vulnerable groups like women, elderly, disabled, infants



Press Advertisement announcing the start of the Population Enumeration on 9th February 2011

and the homeless. Celebrity endorsements were also broadcast.

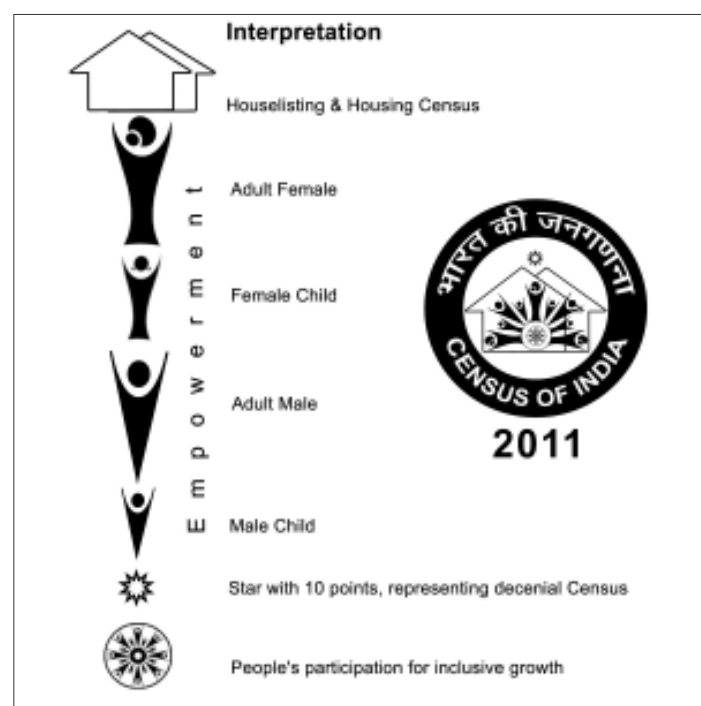
A new initiative - 'Census in Schools' was launched across the country. The purpose of this programme was to make all children aware that the Census is taking place and that they have a role in ensuring that the data for their own family is recorded correctly. Another purpose was to expose them to the significance of Census Data in the development of the country. The programme covered about 60 to 80 schools in each of the 640 Districts in the country and was specifically designed for participation by the students of the entire school in general and the students of class VI, VII and VIII in particular.

Census 2011 also saw the use of a Mascot - a lady enumerator. This was done in order to encourage and acknowledge the services of the real heroines/heroes of the Census, namely the enumerators.

In addition to the efforts taken at the National level, publicity efforts were also taken at the level of the Directorates and at the District and local levels by the field officers.

A unique feature of Census 2011 was the innovative use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The enthusiastic response of the younger generation to this initiative and the very positive comments posted on the site were motivating. A photography competition was also launched in connection with the Census 2011 which saw very active participation.

The Department of Consumer Affairs also ran an effective campaign during the Census period calling upon the public to be aware and to ensure that they were not left out of the count. The National Trust also provided media content on the theme of disability.



Census 2011 Logo and its interpretation

CENSUS 2011 LOGO

An innovative Logo was adopted for Census 2011. The interpretation of the Logo is given in the Box above. The Logo was designed by Shri Padarabinda Rath, an employee of the Census organisation and was highly appreciated for its concept and design.

GENDER SENSITIZATION

Gender disaggregated data is the basis for gender sensitive policy formulation and programme planning. The need for gender statistics in formulating policies and programmes can hardly be over-emphasized.

Conceptually, information collected at the Census is gender neutral and compiled and tabulated for both men and women separately. The Questionnaire and Instruction Manual for collection of information in the field have been carefully designed to avoid any bias on the basis of gender. The training of Census functionaries also focused on this aspect of neutrality.

With a view to review the past experience and fine-tune the strategies for Census 2011, a National Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming was held on 30th July 2010. The workshop looked at data sets on key gender indicators and deliberated on all sensitive issues, which could affect accurate netting of data in the field due to any prevailing cultural or other bias, shared local concerns of States / UTs and proposed a strategy to improve gender statistics in Census 2011. This was followed by a number of group workshops in which Directorate of Census Operations and UN agencies supporting this initiative participated. Gender mainstreaming activities of Census 2011 encompassing gender responsive training and publicity is an outcome of detailed data analysis and subsequent deliberations and consultative processes involving different stakeholders.

Gender sensitivity was integrated into the entire process of Census taking. The first and foremost aim of Census 2011 has been to ensure complete coverage without omission or duplication. In addition to the basic count, special efforts have been made to accurately net the socio-cultural, demographic and economic characteristics, which inter-alia would include correct netting of head of the

household, Age, Age at marriage, Marital status, Literacy, and Economic activities in unorganized and unpaid work.

In this connection, special efforts were directed towards districts that returned abnormal gender parameters, such as, sex ratio (below 900), low female literacy (30% or less) and female work participation (less than 20%) at Census 2001, by developing special gender modules and training strategies for sensitization of Census functionaries. The number of such gender critical district was 262. In these districts special Gender Master Trainer Facilitators were appointed, who supported Master Trainers and imparted gender training to Enumerators with the aid of a special module and kits specially devised for training at different levels. Gender module aimed to reduce stereotypes and apathy towards gender concerns was prepared. Gender flyers and data sheets based on Census 2001 were also prepared to highlight the concerns. The training module was aimed at equipping the Enumerators with probing techniques on gender sensitive questions.

Data Sheets highlighting gaps in gender statistics on key population characteristics have also been prepared for all the Districts and distributed up to Enumerator's level.

A gender sensitive and innovative 'e-learning' module was also prepared to simplify difficult questions and responses by way of role plays in the typical field situation through animation. This module has all gender sensitive themes such as inclusion, head of the household, age, mother tongue, work, migration and fertility.



Village women welcoming the Census Enumerators

To create awareness among the general masses about gender issues and to facilitate correct reporting of information, a well conceived publicity plan was launched with a female enumerator as the mascot of the Census. The new Census Logo as explained earlier also emphasizes the pivotal role of women. Special publicity kits, Census in Schools kit, and other material also focused on this vital

issue. The print and audio visual publicity material also has special gender themes on inclusion and female work. The outreach programmes organized by the Directorates had gender as the main area of focus. The use of social digital media such as Facebook and Twitter were also part of this strategy of inclusion. The ultimate aim has been to create an environment that will sensitize both Enumerators as well as respondents.

CENSUS HELPLINE

Help desks and help lines had been introduced in the last Census. The same was continued in this Census also. The help desks were established at the charge level and were manned by Master Trainers. In addition, the mobile phone numbers of certain experts from the Directorates were given to the Master Trainers so that they could get clarifications then and there. A Toll Free Number was activated and a Call Centre established at which calls could be received from the Enumerators and Supervisors. Though the Call Centre personnel were trained, most calls were routed to experts at each Directorate to answer on a real time basis. Besides, a section 'Frequently Asked Questions' was opened in the Census website which was accessed by officials and Enumerators alike. In a few Directorates, elaborate training videos were produced and given to each Enumerator.

INITIATIVES

Some innovative initiatives made in Census 2011 are listed below:

1. **Video Conferencing:** The fact is that the Census Commissioner, India was able to personally talk to more than 600 of the 640 Principal Census Officers across the country during the actual Census, speaks volumes about this marvellous technology and its potential. Every Directorate used this mode of communication to the maximum. There is no doubt that this personal contact went a long way in sensitising the Census Officials and enhance their involvement.
2. **National Conference of all Principal Census Officers:** A National Conference was held on 4th March 2010 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi in which Principal Census Officers, State representatives and Directors of Census Operations participated. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Home Minister of India. The Union Home Secretary, senior Officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and many Central Government Ministries and Departments participated. This direct contact had a significant impact, which could well be seen during the field operations.
3. **National Conference of Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police:** A National Conference of Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police was held on 11th June 2010 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The Union Home Secretary chaired this Conference, which proved extremely useful in enlisting the full cooperation of the State/UT Governments.
4. **Conference of Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors:** The Hon'ble Union Home Minister spoke regarding the Census operations at the Conference of Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors held on 25th October 2010. The impact of this was also quite significant.
5. **State Conferences:** Senior Officers from the Office of the Registrar General, India visited all States during the Census and held State level meetings with the State and District Officers. The Census Commissioner, India personally visited 23 States/UTs during both phases of Census. The personal rapport

built up during these visits with the State and District level officers paid rich dividends.

6. **Press Conferences:** The Hon'ble Union Home Minister and the Union Home Secretary held exclusive Press Conferences during both phases of the Census. This was also followed up with a series of such Press Conferences by the Census Commissioner, India and the Directors of Census. A specially developed Media Kit also served to enhance public awareness.
7. **Conference of the Directors of Census Operations:** In all, eight Conferences of Directorates of Census Operations were held in connection with the Census 2011.
8. **Conference of Military and Para Military Organisations:** A Conference of nodal officers of Military and Para Military Organisations was conducted at New Delhi with the active involvement of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and all the Para Military Organisations participated. Similar meetings were held in all Directorates. This sensitisation went a long way in enlisting the participation of these organisations in the Census.
9. **Use of Mobile Phones:** A database of mobile phone numbers was created at various levels and effectively used. The Charge Registers had the Telephone numbers of all functionaries, which was the most effective medium of communication used in Census 2011. Instructions, complaints and clarifications were all done through this medium.
10. **Short Mail Service (SMS):** Applications like "way to SMS", bulk mail service was used to communicate instructions to field functionaries as well as receive and clarify doubts from field functionaries.
11. **Call Centre:** A toll free number was operated through both phases of Census and the calls were handled by a professional Call Centre. The Enumerators could ask queries which were routed to Census experts who clarified the same. The Centres also handled public complaints.
12. **Web Site:** The Census website, besides other sections, hosted all the Instruction Manuals, Circulars and Frequently Asked Questions. This source was also accessed by the Enumerators as well as the public at large. Similar websites at the Directorate level were used for passing on instructions as well as for monitoring progress.
13. **Audio Visual Media:** Innovative training CDs were prepared by several Directorates and distributed to the field functionaries. Some also broadcast these over Educational TV Channels and used it as a training medium.
14. **Television Serials:** An innovative method was the use of a popular Television Serial, like "Tarak Mehta Ka Ultah Chashma" to communicate message of Census 2011. This had a wide reach and great appeal.
15. **Folk Arts:** A few Directorates used the medium of local folk arts to communicate messages. This unique approach opened doors especially in remote tribal pockets and made Census taking easier.
16. **Community Volunteers:** This was a unique initiative in some North Eastern States where Civil Society Organisations joined hands with the Directorates to not only spread awareness but actually take part in the

conduct of the Census. This has had a significant impact in these States and has greatly enhanced the participation of the general people in the Census.

17. Partnership with Non Governmental Organisations: Disability, Gender and Homeless, having been identified as areas requiring special focus, efforts were made in all Directorates to identify and work with credible Non Governmental Organisations. The participation ranged from awareness building to extensive involvement in training and even actual participation in the conduct of field operations. The results have been quite encouraging.
18. Media Plan: Scientific media and communication plans were prepared during both phases of the Census. This was done by engaging professional media consultants. The media campaign has been appreciated for its content, coverage and quality.
19. Republic Day Tableaus: Several States took out Tableaus on Census 2011 on the occasion of Republic day. This was very helpful in spreading awareness.
20. Car Rallies: Car Rallies were organised in several States. In Madhya Pradesh, the speciality was that the navigators of the Cars were persons with seeing disability.
21. Tricycle Rally: A tricycle rally was also organised in Delhi for the disabled.

CONDUCT OF CENSUS 2011

Houselisting and Housing Census

The Census Operations in India are carried out in two phases- the Houselisting and Housing Census followed by the Population Enumeration. The objective of the Houselisting and Housing Census is to systematically list out all the structures, houses and households throughout the country for preparation of a sound frame for conduct of the Population Enumeration. All the buildings and houses, wherever necessary are numbered for easy identification at the time of actual enumeration. The Houselisting and Housing Census was conducted in different States and Union Territories during April-September 2010. In addition to collecting data on characteristics of the house, information on availability of certain amenities and assets to the households were also collected in this first phase. The Schedules canvassed during this phase are being processed and the detailed Report containing all Tabulations would be released soon.



A young Great Andamanese of Strait Islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands



On the way to Census Enumeration in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Calendar of Houselisting and Housing Census

The Calendar of Houselisting and Housing Census is given in the box below:

Calendar of Houselisting and Housing Census in 2010	
1st April	New Delhi, West Bengal, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Meghalaya
7th April	Kerala, Lakshadweep, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim
15th April	Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh
21st April	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu
26th April	Tripura, Andhra Pradesh
1st May	Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Bihar
7th May	Madhya Pradesh
15th May	Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
1st June	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland
15th June	Jharkhand

With the exception of Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, where extension of time had to be given on account of certain local problems, the dates were adhered to in all States/UT's. Similarly, all States/UTs reported complete coverage except for a few villages in the abovementioned States.

CHANGES IN THE HOUSELISTING AND HOUSING CENSUS SCHEDULE

The attempt at every Census is to maintain continuity in order to allow comparisons and give a time series of data. However, every Census also permits a few changes in keeping with the demands of stakeholders. The changes made in Census 2011 are as follows:

(i) **Type of wall:** A differentiation has been made between 'stone packed with mortar' and 'stone not packed with mortar'. The Codes in Census 2011 are:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
Grass/thatch/bamboo	1	Grass/thatch/bamboo	1
Plastic/polythene	2	Plastic/polythene	2
Mud/ unburnt brick	3	Mud/unburnt brick	3
Wood	4	Wood	4
Gl/metal/asbestos sheets	5	Stone packed with mortar	5
Burnt Brick	6	Stone not packed with mortar	6
Stone	7	Gl/metal/asbestos sheets	7
Concrete	8	Burnt Brick	8
Any Other	9	Concrete	9
		Any Other	0

(ii) **Type of roof:** The Codes for material of roof have been modified by distinguishing hand-made tiles from machine made-tiles. The codes used in Census 2011 compared to the Census 2001 are given below:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
Grass/thatch/bam-boo/wood/mud etc.	1	Grass/thatch/bam-boo/wood/mud etc.	1
Plastic/polythene	2	Plastic/polythene	2
Tiles	3	Hand made tiles	3
		Machine made tiles	4
Slate	4	Burnt brick	5
Gl/metal/asbestos sheets	5	Stone	6
Brick	6	Slate	7
Stone	7	Gl/metal/asbestos sheets	8
Concrete	8	Concrete	9
Any Other	9	Any other	0

(iii) **Main source of drinking water:** The heading of the question has been changed from “Drinking water source” to “Main source of drinking water”. Drinking water cannot be classified as ‘safe’ or ‘unsafe’ without proper testing. However an attempt has been made for improving the categorisation of the sources of drinking water through provision of separate codes for ‘tap water from treated source’ and ‘tap water from untreated source’. The set of codes as used in Census 2011 and the corresponding Census 2001 Codes are as follows:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
Drinking Water Source		Main Source of Drinking Water	
Tap	1	Tap water from treated source	1
Handpump	2	Tap water from untreated source	2
Tubewell	3	Covered well	3
Well	4	Un-covered well	4
Tank/pond/lake	5	Hand pump	5
River/canal	6	Tube well/borehole	6
Spring	7	Spring	7
Any Other	8	River/canal	8
		Tank/pond/lake	9
		Other Sources	0

(iv) **Source of Lighting:** The heading has been modified as ‘Main Source of Lighting’

(v) **Bathing facility within premises:** Realising that bathroom within the house was a predominantly urban phenomenon, the heading has been changed as bathing facility within the premises. Moreover, the categories have been expanded to include ‘Enclosure without roof’. The code list for the Census 2011 along with codes as were in Census 2001 are given below:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
Bathroom within the house		Bathing facility available within premises	
Yes	1	Bathroom	1
No	2	Enclosure without roof	2
		No	3

(vi) **Latrine:** In Census 2001, information was sought on the availability of latrine ‘within the house’; in Census 2011 it has been modified as available ‘Within the premises’. Attempt has also been made to include other types of latrines. These categories are more in keeping with the WHO/UNICEF categories. The set of codes as used in Census 2011 and the corresponding Census 2001 Codes are as follows:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
No Latrine	0	Flush/pour flush latrine connected to	
Service Latrine	1	Piped sewer system	1
Pit Latrine	2	Septic system	2
Water Closet	3	Other system	3
		Pit Latrine	
		With slab/Ventilated Improved Pit	4
		Without slab/open pit	5
		Night soil disposed into open drain	6
		Service Latrine	
		Night soil removed by human	7
		Night soil serviced by animals	8
		No latrine within premises	
		Public Latrine	9
		Open	0

(vi) **Computer:** This is a new question. Computer and Internet penetration in the country is still a matter of conjecture as there are no authentic sources for this data. The Census 2011 would give rich data on this, which would be a vital input for policy planning. The codes for the new question in Census 2011 are as follows:

Census 2011	Code
Computer/Laptop possessed	
Yes	
With Internet	1
Without Internet	2
No	3

(vii) **Telephone:** The scope of the question on Telephone has been expanded to separately include Mobile Phone also. With the rapid expansion of Mobile Phone coverage, traditional landline telephones have become less attractive. The present Census would give rich data on this aspect. The codes in Census 2011 are as follows:

Census 2001	Code	Census 2011	Code
Telephone		Telephone/Mobile phone	
Yes	1	Yes	
		Landline only	1
		Mobile only	2
No	2	Both	3
		No	4

POPULATION ENUMERATION

The Population Enumeration was undertaken between 9th to 28th February 2011 (both days inclusive). A revisional round was conducted from 1st to 5th March 2011. The Census Moment, the referral time at which the snapshot of the population is taken, is 00.00 hours of 1st March 2011. In parts of the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which are snow-bound in February, the Population Enumeration was carried out non-synchronously in September – October 2010. The houseless population, as has been the usual practice, was enumerated on the night of 28th February 2011.



Enumeration in a forest village in Orissa

Features of the Census 2011 Questionnaires

- Forms designed by National Institute of Design(NID), Ahmedabad
- Each Form has a Bar Code and a distinct Number
- Printed in select high-end Presses having capacity for digital printing
- Special colours used to enable complete drop-out after scanning
- Pre-printing of State and District Location Codes attempted for the first time
- Facility for noting continuity made in the Form
- Specification for Paper evolved in consultation with experts
- Paper quality

The new features in Household Schedule of Census 2011 as compared to the previous Census are as follows:

- Pre-printing of Location particulars up to District:** A highlight of Census 2011 was the pre-printing of location codes up to District level and the use of shorter Location Codes in the field. This reduced the burden on the Enumerators to an extent and improved compliance in the writing of location Codes on every Schedule.
- Printing of Bar Codes/ Form Number:** The introduction of unique Form Number and Bar Codes in each Schedule was a new feature. This greatly facilitated proper inventory management and tracking of Schedules.
- Colour Drop-Out:** The colours chosen for printing the Schedule were such that they dropped out totally after scanning. This is designed to facilitate considerable improvement in Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR).
- Edge Cut:** Cutting one edge in the Schedule is designed to facilitate proper alignment of Schedules during scanning.
- Linking of Houselisting with Population Enumeration:** A procedure to link the Housing Census data of matched households to the Population Enumeration data has been attempted for the first time.
- Tracking system in case of more than one form is used:** A provision to record the number of the continuation forms used in the case of normal/ Institutional households where more than one Schedule has been used has been made.
- Description of Institutional Households:** A provision has been made for recording the description of Institutional households.
- Gender:** In a radical departure from the past, a provision has been made for the respondent to return a gender other than male or female. This is an option to be exercised by the respondent and not determined by the Enumerator.
- Date of birth:** A provision has been made to record age in completed years as well as date of birth. This is expected to improve reporting of age at least among a section of the population.

- j) **Current marital status:** Separate Codes have been assigned for 'Divorced' and 'Separated'.
- k) **Disability:** The question on disability has been vastly enlarged in Census 2011. In comparison to the 5 Codes in Census 2001, 8 Codes have been provided in the present Census. The new Codes are: Mental Retardation, Mental Illness, Any Other and Multiple Disability. The questions and the instructions have been finalised after extensive deliberation with civil society organisations and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Respondents with multiple disability would now be able to report up to 3 disabilities for the first time.
- l) **Status of current attendance in educational institution:** Separate codes have been given for persons who have never attended any educational institution and persons who have attended earlier. An additional code for recording persons attending special institution for the disabled has also been added.
- m) **Worked any time during last year:** The question on Work Status has been modified as below:

Main Worker

If worked for 6 months or more

Marginal Worker

If worked for 3 months or more but less than 6 months

If worked for less than 3 months

Non Worker

If not worked at all

Such a classification would not only retain the older categorization of Main, Marginal and Non Worker but would also offer richer data on the period of work.

- n) **Non-economic activity:** A category of 'Others' has been included to account for commercial sex workers and persons involved in illegal activities. A new code for 'rentier' has also been introduced.
- o) **Migration:** While processing of the Census 2001 data, it was found that the non-response with respect to providing the district names was relatively more both in the question on place of birth and place of last residence. It was felt that as the names of the districts might have undergone a change, the respondent was unable to provide the correct names. Thus, in Census 2011, an added item, namely, the name of village/ town has been added in both these questions.
- p) **Number of children born alive during last one year:** Mention of the specific period '1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011' on the body of the Schedule has been done.

QUESTION DROPPED

- a) **Household engaged in cultivation/plantation:** The following question was canvassed in Census 2001: 'Total net area of land under cultivation/ plantation'; 'Net area of irrigated land' and 'Tenure status of land under cultivation/ plantation'. The question was canvassed but could not be tabulated on account of widespread non-response. There were also

other technical problems like, variation in the units of measurement, comparability with other sources of data, namely, the Agricultural Census, land holding survey of the NSS, etc. Hence it was decided to drop this question in Census 2011.

- b) A comparison of the questions proposed in Census 2011 with the questions canvassed in Census 2001 is presented below.

Sr. No	Census 2001	Census 2011	Remarks
1)	Name of person	Name of the person	No Change
2)	Relationship to head	Relationship to head	No Change
3)	Sex	Sex	Provision for returning a gender other than male or female
4)	Age in completed years	Date of Birth	Date of Birth in addition to age
5)	Current marital status	Current marital status	Separate codes for 'Divorced' and 'Separated'
6)	Age at marriage	Age at marriage	No Change
7)	Religion	Religion	No Change
8)	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	No Change
9)	Other languages known	Other languages known	No Change
10)	Literacy status	Literacy status	No Change
11)	Highest educational level attained	Highest educational level attained	No Change
12)	Status of attendance in educational institution	Status of attendance in educational institution	Separate Codes for persons who have never attended and who have attended before
13)	Disability	Disability	Question modified. Three questions instead of one.
14)	Did the person work any time last year	Worked any time during last year	Additional codes for two types of marginal workers (3-6 months, less than 3 months)
	For main or marginal worker		
15)	Category of economic activity	Work category	No Change
16)	Occupation of the person	Occupation	No Change
17)	Describe in detail the nature of industry, trade or service	Nature of industry, trade or service	No Change
18)	Class of worker	Class of worker	No Change
	For marginal workers or non-workers		
19)	Record Code of non-economic activity	Non-economic activity	Adding a separate code for rentiers
20)	Is the person seeking/available for work	Seeking/available for work	No Change
	For other workers		
	Travel to place of work		
21)	Distance from residence to place of work in kilometres	One way distance from usual residence to place of work in kilometres	No Change
22)	Mode of travel to place of work (Code)	Mode of travel to place of work (Code)	No Change
23)	Birth place	Birth place	Name of village/town is also added
24)	Place of last residence	Place of last residence	Name of village/town is also added
25)	At the time of migration, was the place of last residence Rural/Urban	At the time of migration, was the place of last residence Rural/Urban	No Change
26)	Reason for migration of this person	Reason for migration of this person	No Change
27)	Duration of stay in this village or town since migration	Duration of stay in this village or town since migration	No Change

Sr. No	Census 2001	Census 2011	Remarks
	For ever married woman		
28)	Number of children surviving at present	Number of children surviving at present	No Change
29)	Total no. of children ever born alive	Total no. of children ever born alive	No Change
	For currently married woman		
30)	Number of children born alive during last one year	Number of children born alive during last one year	No Change
	For household engaged in cultivation/ plantation		
31)	Total net area of land under cultivation/plantation		Dropped
32)	Net area of irrigated land		Dropped
33)	Tenure status of land under cultivation/ plantation		Dropped

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that the Population Enumeration has been completed in all the States/UTs. The Coverage Certificates given by all the Principal Census Officers indicate that the coverage has been cent percent.

POST ENUMERATION SURVEY

The Census Organisation since Independence has traditionally been evaluating the results of the Population Censuses through Post Enumeration Surveys (PES). No precise estimate of the extent of error in the Census count was ever made prior to Independence. The objective of the PES is to quantify the omission and duplication in the Census enumeration, that is coverage error as well as to measure the response error in respect of certain selected characteristics canvassed at the Census called content error. The results are of help in identifying areas that would need attention such as concepts and definitions employed, procedures of enumeration and related instructions to the field staff, etc. as well as in improving the conduct of future Censuses. No attempts, however, are made to adjust the Census results based on the PES results.

During Census of India 2011, PES of both Houselisting Operations and Population Enumeration has been proposed to be conducted separately after the conclusion of the respective phases. The field work of the PES of the first phase, that is, Houselisting Operations has been completed in all the States and Union Territories during 16 August to 15 September, 2010. The sampling frame used for selection of samples for conducting the PES of this phase was the sampling units of the Sample Registration System (SRS). A total of 1,929 SRS Units were selected for PES spread over all the States and Union Territories. Total number of Houselisting Blocks in each SRS Unit depended upon the population of SRS Unit. Since the PES estimation methodology is based on the assumption of independence between the PES and the census operations, wherever possible, the field work was carried out by the staff of the respective State Governments. In the other States/UTs, officials of the respective Directorate of Census Operations conducted the field work. The enumerators were specially trained for conducting the PES.

It is proposed to start the PES of the second phase of Census of India 2011, that is, Population Enumeration in April, 2011 in all the States and Union Territories. A total of 4,000 Enumeration Blocks of Population Enumeration has been selected for the purpose of estimating coverage error. For measuring

content error, 20 percent sub-sample of the selected enumeration blocks has been selected. Most of the State Governments/UT Administrations have agreed to provide their Staff for the field work and supervision. Intensive training will be imparted to them before the field operation. The field work is proposed to be conducted during April to June, 2011.

Net omission rates of persons at the All-India level based on the PES of population enumeration for 1981 to 2001 Censuses by sex and residence are presented below:

Net omission rates (per thousand persons) at All-India level by sex and residence – 1981-2001.

Sex	Total			Rural			Urban		
	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001
Persons	18.0	17.6	23.3	15.0	16.8	16.8	27.6	19.8	39.8
Males	17.1	17.3	23.5	13.8	16.0	16.2	27.7	21.1	41.5
Females	18.8	17.9	23.1	16.3	17.7	17.5	27.5	18.3	37.9

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“The people of India have, as usual done it! Nothing could have been accomplished without their active cooperation. Team Census 2011 expresses its humble and heartfelt gratitude to the billion plus people of this great country who have overwhelmingly responded to the call and participated wholeheartedly to make this gigantic task a success.

The heroines and heroes of Census 2011 have undoubtedly been the 2.7 million Enumerators and Supervisors who have spared no efforts to complete the arduous task in time. Three weeks to cover a vast and diverse country like India – a task looked at with awe by the world but accomplished by these humble women and men with sincerity and devotion to duty. The nation is proud of them and we salute each one of them for their hard work, perseverance and patience.

The tremendous effort of the support team, who are the backbone of any successful venture, often goes unacknowledged. Census 2011 would not be what it is without their effort! We thank the army of Master Trainers, Master Trainer Facilitators and the National Trainers, numbering around 55, 000 in all who have trained the Enumerators and Supervisors.

The 15,000 strong team of Charge Officers and Special Charge Officers, are our field Commanders. Little could have been accomplished without this vital link in the chain. It is on the strength of their shoulders that any National campaign rests and to their full credit they deliver each and every time! Our sincere gratitude to each one of them.

The Principal Census Officers, (District Collectors/Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of Municipal Corporations) and others senior officials of the District and Municipal Corporations have been unsparing in their efforts to ensure that the Census Operations are completed smoothly. Heartfelt thanks to them for a job well done.

The Census is a fitting example of how National campaigns are accomplished in India with the Federal and Provincial Governments working in close cooperation. The State/UT Administrations have rendered unstinting cooperation to make Census 2011 a success. Our debt of gratitude to the

Chief Secretaries, Nodal Officers and all other senior officials in the State Governments who have taken personal interest and have provided all the required assistance needed. Our deep sense of gratitude to the Governors, Lt. Governors and Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories who graciously extended a helping hand whenever approached.

We are grateful to the members of the Technical Advisory Committee for providing invaluable suggestions and enriching us with their experience. Thanks are also due to several demographers, social scientists and other data users for their constructive suggestions. I am especially grateful to Shri A. R. Nanda and Shri J. K. Banthia, both former Registrar Generals & Census Commissioners, India for their unstinting support and advice.

The Office of the Surveyor General of India has closely worked with us on the digital mapping project in the State/UT Capitals. The Directorate of Printing and Stationary and all the Central and State Government Presses, have stood shoulder to shoulder with us to complete the huge job of printing within a short time. The Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals has gone to great lengths to ensure the timely supply of paper and to ensure its quality. The Department of Posts has successfully undertaken the challenging task of managing the logistics. They have also come out with a special commemorative Postal Stamp on Census 2011. The NIC and NICS have been extremely supportive of us and have extended great support to Census 2011. We would like to place on record our sincere appreciation to all of them.

Our thanks are due to the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Personnel, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Urban Development and all the other Ministries and Departments of the Central Government for their support and advice.

The various organisations of the United Nations- UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women and also UNSD have been a source of constant support for Census 2011. Their involvement in Training and Publicity initiatives is significant and the model of multiple UN agencies working in tandem, is worth emulating in other projects. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of all these agencies.

Civil society organisations working in the field of disability, gender, the homeless, street children and several such have wholeheartedly supported us in our efforts. They have come forward in a big way in augmenting our efforts in training, publicity and at times during the actual conduct of Census. We would be remiss in our duty if we did not acknowledge their support.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Doordarshan and All India Radio have provided support in the media campaign. The Department of Consumer Affairs also ran an active media campaign during the Census period. Several other departments and agencies have added their bit to the publicity efforts of the States and Union Territories. We would like to thank all of them for their contributions. The electronic and print media has taken Census 2011 to every home in the country. They have kept us on our toes by giving us a reality check constantly. We would like to express our gratitude to the media for their support.

The former Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India Shri D. K. Sikri was at the helm of affairs till November 2009. Under his able leadership the basic contours of Census 2011 were conceptualised. I am personally beholden to him for his continuing support and guidance.

The Home Secretary has backed us all in each and every way. His doors have always been open to us. Similarly, the Financial Advisor and his office have been supportive of us throughout. We express our gratitude to the entire Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister has been a pillar of strength in all our endeavours. His continuing leadership and personal involvement in all matters concerning the Census and his efforts to ensure that its integrity was not compromised, has been a source of motivation for us. He has indeed left a lasting mark on Census 2011. We sincerely acknowledge his contribution. The Ministers of State of Home Affairs have similarly been a constant source of support. We thank them sincerely.

We acknowledge with thanks, the encouragement received from the Hon'ble President of India, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and other members of the Union Cabinet.

To my team at the headquarters and the States/UTs, the Additional Registrar General, the Deputy Director Generals, the Joint Registrar General, the Deputy Registrar Generals, the Directors of Census Operations, the Director (Administration), the Joint Directors and all the members of the team Census 2011, my personal debt of gratitude (Annexure-III). To say that the last two years have been a huge challenge for each one of us in the Census family, would definitely be an understatement. Every member of the Census organisation, at the headquarters and the Directorates has toiled ceaselessly for the success of Census 2011. Our family members have been a tower of strength silently supporting and encouraging us to dedicate ourselves to this National cause. Collective effort and team spirit has enabled us to climb these heady heights. Kudos to the entire Team of Census 2011!

Census 2011 is epoch making from yet another perspective. While it has thrown up benchmark data on the abundant human resource of India, it has also laid the foundation for National Population Register. The National Population Register when completed would significantly impact the way future Censuses would be conducted in the country.

The creation of the National Population Register, the issue of Caste Enumeration, the threat of left wing extremism, local socio-political agitations in the States/UTs have added to the workload besides raising anxiety levels. It is heartening that the sweat and toil has paid off and the Census has been completed without any exception across the country. It is indeed with a great sense of relief and satisfaction that we place before the people of India, the first results of Census 2011- "The Provisional Population Totals".

Bouquets for successfully completing this mammoth exercise go to "Team Census 2011". Brickbats, if any, are exclusively mine."

Dr. C. Chandramouli,
Registrar General &
Census Commissioner, India

Chaitra, Ekadashi, Vikram Samvat 2067
30th March 2011