

Sudan Experience in Conducting Population Censuses

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Introduction

- Official statistics play critical role in policy-making, planning
- Population censuses present essential sources of universe data
- Census practices in Sudan have undergone huge progress

Objectives


- Reflects Sudan experience in undertaking population censuses
- Identifies challenges facing the successive population censuses
- Reflects the progress have been made over time


Methods


- Reviewing and analyzing the available data and literature on population censuses


Results


- Five population censuses from 1956/57 to 2008
- The first census followed de jure method on sample basis
- The enumeration period extended to 14 months
- Data manually processed by unit record equipment
- lesson learned was to apply full-count censuses


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- The second population census conducted in 1973
 - De facto method and full-counting census
 - Noticeable improvement in census techniques


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- Dual questionnaires applied for the first time
 - Data processed by IBM 360/30 computer
 - The periodicity of upcoming censuses was recommended


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- The third census conducted in February 1983
 - Observable progress in all aspects of census process
 - Pilot and post census evaluation surveys were conducted
 - Dual questionnaires adopted

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- The long questionnaire consisted of 46 questions
 - Data processed by ICL computer in 37 work stations
 - Data entry completed in four years after enumeration
 - Census tabulations completed in 3 three years

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- The fourth population census undertaken in 1993
 - De facto basis and dual questionnaires applied
 - The enumeration completed within 5 days

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- Microcomputers and IMPS software were utilized
 - Recommendations are:-
 - The village to be the final dissemination unit
 - To establish the civil register

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- Fifth census of 2003 postponed to 2008
 - It was a highly politicized census
 - GIS technology was applied
 - Scanning via optical mark recognition was applied

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- Full-coverage north and south Sudan
 - The challenges facing 2008 census were:-
 - ❖ Politicization of census
 - ❖ Vast area of Sudan including the South
 - ❖ Rainy seasons that started early
 - ❖ Lack of experienced human resources in the South
 - ❖ Insecurity in some regions

Conclusion

- Sudan has good experience in population censuses
- International principles and standards as updated were followed
- A unique lesson learned for politicized post conflict censuses