

Population and Development



Technical Office of the National
Committee for Population

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LUMINOUS WORDS

The Government of the Sultanate of Oman has attached great importance to the overall development during the past years, hence it was enabled to lay down solid grounds directed towards comprehensive Renaissance through the various and fruitful achievements, thus assuming its appropriate place among Nations and International community. The achievements of the Sultanate speak for themselves and reveal the extent to which we achieved together what we aspire for, despite the formidable challenges which faced our march towards development.

Qaboos bin Said
4th Muharam 1416H 2nd June 1995

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EDITORIAL

It is our pleasure to present to you the first issue of the “**Population and Development**” bulletin which contains topics and indicators pertinent to sustainable development in all its aspects, discusses the population situation in the Sultanate and the world and review the Sultanate’s and the Arab world’s population policy. The bulletin also gives full account of the local and international events which relate to sustainable development and the population strategy.

The decision to issue this “**Population and Development**” bulletin as periodical publication every four months came in response to and interest in the changes in sustainable development, especially in the area of human development, which are taking place in the Sultanate, in particular, and the world in general.

We strive through this issue, to provide one of the basic prerequisites to achieve sustainable development and accomplish the objectives of the population strategy through the topics, issues and indicators which the bulletin embodies and which play an important role in presenting the population situation in the Sultanate and in the world. We also strive to engage the community in sustainable development and population policy and to acquaint it with the results of the most recent studies and reports issued in these areas.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed towards this first issue and invite the contribution of all the staff of the Ministry for the best interest of all.

Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki
Minister of National Economy

Deputy Chairman of Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council
Chairman of the National population Committee

Population of GCC States in 2020

The GCC states total population reached 34.1 million in 2005, rising by 4 million people during the period 2000 – 2005, and at an average rate of growth of 2.5%. This high increase in the population size of the GCC states was attributed mainly to the intensive import of expatriate Labour force to meet the accelerated needs of development: Available data show that the total national population of the GCC states stands at 20.9 million , representing 64% of their total population . Among the GCC states, kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the highest populated with 69% of the total GCC states population. As for expatriates , data shows that kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman host the lowest expatriate numbers amounting to less than 30%, whereas the percentage rise to more than 70% in UAE and to more than 60% in Kuwait. Consequently, expatriate Labour force represent a burden n GCC states economies as well as increasing the number of people searching for work among GCC states nationals , reaching 12% in some of them.

8th September, the International Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

Despite some differenced between societies as far as their social , economic and political systems , yet there is a consensus among these societies that science is a prerequisite for progress and development. On this basis , the international community stated to celebrate the international day for the eradication of illiteracy on the 8th

September every year ,upon a decision from the General assembly of UNESCO taken at its 14th session in 1966 . This international day then received more support from the UN General Assembly vide its decision No. A/RES/56/116 announcing the start of the un decade for the eradication of illiteracy in January 2003. The UN organization aimed by this announcement to encourage and support all countries of the world to intensify their efforts directed to the spreading of education and eradication of illiteracy .

The sultanate of Oman, and despite its recent start of it's renaissance as late as 1970 . has achieved remarkable steps in the eradication of illiteracy , guided by the directives of HM the Sultan , our goal is to spread education in all parts of the sultanate so every Omani gets a fair share according to his/her capabilities is addition to drawing a plan for the eradication of illiteracy “. These gracious of directives of HM the Sultan were the starting point for the Sultanate's efforts to eradicate illiteracy in the year 1973/74. A number of illiteracy centers and adult education classes were opened in all regions of the Sultanate. And within this same endeavour and in an effort to upgrade curricula and methods, the Ministry of Education embarked on the implementation of the educated village at the different walayats including Barka, Mahdha, Al Buraimi , Al Mudhebi , and Liwa in the school year 2004/05.

These efforts have led to a fall in illiteracy rate to 22% in 2003 compared to 41% in 1993 . the illiteracy rate among the age group (15-24) years jumped to 98% in 2003 compared 92% in 1993 . This is a clear indication that illiteracy is concentrated among the old age groups.

Economic development efforts are still on the marsh with intensified efforts for building the Omani people who are capable of energetic work , as they are the tool and objective of development.

An issue of High Importance.

Monitoring the services provided to the population and highlighting their points of strengths and weaknesses are among the most important factors of success of plans and strategies. Consequently, the National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman has emphasized a number of population challenges that are ought to be faced, namely, reduction of infant and under-5 mortality rates, among other things , as one of the Millennium Gals sought to be achieved by all countries of the world by 2015

Annual health statistics reveal that infant mortality rate had sharply dropped from 64 cases per 1000 live births in 1990 to 10.1 cases in 2007. Despite this positive drop in IMRs in the Sultanate, it's still considered high compared to some GCC states like UAE and Qatar, where the IMRs stand at the low level of 7.7 and 8.2 per 1000 live births in 2005 respectively.

The Annual Health Report of 2007 illustrates that around 57.7% of newly born children deaths take place at the 1st week of delivery and 74.7% take place during the first month. The data also shows that congenital abnormalities top the list of causes of death of new-born and infants. These causes are considered outside the intervention procedures of physicians , normally related to marriage practices such as marriage among relatives delivery at young age (less than 20 years) or late marriage (after the age of 45years).

It goes without saying that medical intervention and continuation and papered of primary health care programs will have an important role in reducing infant mortality rates. However, for most of these deaths, the health, social and economic impacts on the mother in particular and the family in general can be avoided through a simple measure, which is pre-marital test.. This service is provided by the Ministry of Health, free of charge, for couples who want to get married.

The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

The Concept of the National Population Strategy

It deals with strategic stance, legislative and administrative procedures and the programme interventions aiming at introducing quantitative and qualitative changes in population variables, rationalizing demographic practises, expanding the individuals' choices which affect and are affected by the required balance between their basic rights and their present and future needs. The National Populations Strategy also aims at rectifying the direction of socio-economic development to achieve the balance between the population growth and available resources in addition to introducing positive changes in the population' administrative and geographic distribution.

Formation of the National Population Committee

The Council of Ministers issued in its session held on 12/5/1999 its decision for the preparation of a national population strategy in the Sultanate and formed for this purpose a National Population Committee for its preparation. The strategy should be compatible with the nature and reality of the Omani Community. The National Population Committee is formed of their Excellences the Ministers of the following ministries:

1. Ministry of National Economy	Chairman
2. LG General Inspector of Police and Customs	Member
3. Ministry of Health	"
4. Ministry of Information	"
5. Ministry of Education	"
6. Ministry of Social Development	"

The General Framework of the Population Strategy for GCC States.

In view of the similarity in economic, cultural and social characteristics between GCC States and in recognition by these countries of the close inter-relationship between the population dimensions and sustainable development, the GCC Supreme Council has approved the General Framework of the Population Strategy for the GCC states at its 19th Session held in Abu Dhabi in 1998.

The General Framework is considered as the manifestation of a unified vision for the issues pertinent to the GCC population which will contribute to the realization of the economic, social and population objectives of these states.

The document embodied the population objectives related to their population situation and the policies and directives to reach at population growth rates compatible with their development, ambitions and arrive at an appropriate population structure via high-quality qualification and training for national cadres in addition to the introduction of an efficient system for employment of expatriate labour force and the lay-down of policies which control urban development and internal migration.

Research Organizations in the Area of Population & Development Cairo Demographic Centre



The Cairo Demographic Centre was established in 1963 and in January 1992 a Republican Decision was issued which considers the centre an autonomous Egyptian organization. The Cairo Demographic centre, through serious training and continuous research, undertakes the task of training and fostering demography specialists in developing countries who are interested in studying and analysing important population issues. The centre also strengthens the innovative methods in population studies and provides assistance for policy-makers in their efforts to design population policy and the appropriate development policies. The centre enjoys strong ties and close cooperation links with the population organizations at the national, regional and international levels. The centre issues a number of publications in English language beside the translation of some books from different languages into Arabic language.

For more information visit the centre's website: www.cdc-egypt.org

Arab Experiences in Population Policy Yamen (General Secretariat of the National Council for Population)

The General Secretariat of the National Council for Population in Yamen was established in 1993 as a technical, financial and administrative organization to undertake the follow-up, evaluation and coordination of population projects at both government and non-governmental units, as well as the follow-up of the implementation of the national population policy and the population plan of work. The General Secretariat seeks to achieve the population objective and targets embodied in the National Population Policy through programme and interventions stipulated in the Population Plan of Work.

For more information on the Yameni Experience in population policy field visit the website www.npc.ts.org

Do You Know?

- The percentage of children and youth reaches 50% in developing countries.
- 85% of the youth in the age group (15-24) live in developing countries.
- Youth represents 47% of the total population searching for work worldwide.
- The rates of youth searching for work are two to three times more than the rates of adults searching for work.
- There are 113 million illiterate youth in developing countries.
- Rates of pregnancy at young age are higher in developing countries where 13 million girls give birth at age ranging between 17 and 19 years every year.
- Nearly half of the new AIDS cases in developing countries fall among the youth population.

Population Terminologies

Demography:

First syllable (Demo) means people in Greek and the second syllable (Graphy) means studying. Accordingly, demography means the scientific study of population, which include size, composition, distribution, change and other demographic, social and economic characteristics and the reasons for these changes and their impact.

Population forecasts

This refers to the calculation of changes which are expected to occur in the future in the size of the population on the basis of specific assumptions with regard to the future trends in the rates of fertility, deaths and migration. Population studies experts usually use low, medium and high forecasts for the population themselves, depending on different assumptions with regard to the way in which these variables would change in the future.

International Days

The International Day for Eradication of Illiteracy	8 th September
The international Day for the Elderly	1 st October
International Child Day	20 th November
International Day for Eradication of Violence Against Women	25 th November

Population indicators

1. Total Fertility rate (2007) **3.13**
2. Total population (Omanis & expatriates) (2007) **2,743,499**
3. Omanis (15-49) as a percentage of total Omanis (2007) **56.44%**
4. Omani Females (15 -49) of total Omani Females population (2007) **62%**
5. Life expectancy at birth for males (2007) **70.4**

The Publications of the Technical Office of the Population National Committee

Situation of Women in the Present Legislations in the Sultanate of Oman.

The book reviews various Omani legislative texts which are related to women and secure their rights which suit their social status according to the current development stage of the Omani community.



Invitation for Participation

For participation and comments in the quarterly bulletin or for access of a copy please use the email

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