

Population and Development



National Population Committee
Technical Office

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LUMINOUS WORDS

«We award much observance to education and quest for its development, improvement and raising its level; and update, deepen and enrich knowledge and conform it with the ever-changing world in pursuance of the significance attached by the Sultanate for the development of human resources. Also, strengthening scientific thinking and formation of an educated generations involved in the development process and deal with the local and global changes and new developments efficiently and professionally.»

Qaboos bin Said

The occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Thirty-third session of the General Conference of UNESCO
3-21 October 2005 Paris

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EDITORIAL

We believe that our children will enlighten the sky of our homeland soon. Since the dawn of the blessed Renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Omani children had top attention of the State institutions, governmental, civil and private. The Ministry of Social Development, aware of the importance of childhood stage in building and forming the personality and inculcation of values of success, awarded special attention to the Child. Children are great manpower that will guide nation-building and preserve its capabilities.

The expanded understandings of children and their increased concerns as result of the scientific and technological breakthrough in the world, and the Omani child is not in isolation from this reality, so we stress the need to empower our children to take advantage of the multi-sciences and use of modern technology that contribute to the refinement of children's skills and stimulate their abilities for innovation through modernizing the programs directed to children, both home and school, and holding forums that enable children to practice their hobbies and express their opinion, and encouraging his integration with the society.

The good government shares with the World their quest to provide the appropriate environment for children, through the signing and ratification of international conventions that aim for a safe and peaceful life for children, emphasizing the importance of Islamic principles and Omani values in the education of young people.

Dr. Sharifa bint Khalfan Alyahyaia
Minister of Social Development

The Importance of Analyzing Census Data

Population and Houses censuses are considered important sources of data to formulation of strategies and preparation of sectoral plans particularly in social fields such as health, education, social welfare, employment and housing. If the data of the 1993 and 2003 censuses were compiled with the data of the social statistics surveys such as household expenditure and income, manpower survey and others, a large size of social database will be available that it is of importance to be analyzed in depth for use in future planning based on reality and identify the various social phenomena and analyze them.

Most of the State authorities benefit from the censuses' data to identify the quantitative needs such as service facilities (schools, health centers ... etc.) and related work force and their geographic distribution to be in line with the population distribution. Despite the importance of these data, the use of the available database should exceed this to include the various social issues; for example defining labor-market needs.

The census provides the necessary data to calculate rates of economic activity, characteristics of employed and unemployed in terms of gender, nationality, and education level. They also provide the planners with the anticipated labour market entrants in the coming years based on the size of the population (citizens and expatriates), particularly in school at various stages. It also provides the necessary data to measure the size and characteristics of employees (Omanis and expatriates) in the public and private sectors and their distribution on the threshold of economic activity. As result, professionals can take the necessary steps to reduce or stimulate activity in this sector or the other. It also allows the analysis of data of the distribution of the economically active by occupation and not only by its sections. Such data shed light on the contribution of active citizens in certain professions such as doctors, engineers, teachers ... etc., and thus allow development of procedures to raise the contribution of citizens in certain professions and the targeting the settlement of others.

In this context, the call is to all social sector ministries to benefit from the compiled social database and the data that will be provided by 2010 Census and work on its analysis as a first step to effective sectoral policy.

Dr. George Kossaifi
Integrated social policy expert

International Day of Older Persons

The first of October was announced as the International Day of Older Persons (60 years and above) by resolution 45/106 dated 14 December 1990, follow-up on the implementation of the initiatives of the United Nations on the pattern of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging that was adopted by the World Assembly on Aging in 1982. In 2002, the Second World Assembly on Aging adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, in order to respond to the opportunities and challenges facing the elderly in the twenty first century and to promote the development of a society for all ages.

According to United Nations projections, the world is witnessing an unprecedented demographic shift due to the large decrease in fertility rates and increase of the life expectancy at birth in many regions of the world, and it is expected that by 2050 the proportion of people over the age of 60 years will double from 10% to 21%. In addition, it is expected that the largest and fastest increase will be in the developing countries, where the number of older persons will increase four times during the coming years.

However, the Sultanate of Oman has observed a slow growth in the proportion of the elderly Omanis, which accounted for 4.8% in 1993 and rose to 5.0% in 2003, with an average annual growth of approximately 2.2%. In 2008 the number of elderly Omanis was 73426 persons, 52.6% of them were males while the female proportion was 47.4%, and a gender ratio of 111 males per hundred females.

Moreover, the Government of the Sultanate has been keen to pursue the objectives and international plans that target elderly people and improve their life quality, which include the recommendations contained in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging and the Arab Plan of Action for the elderly 2012. These plans aim to ensure access for all elderly people to health care and social services, create an enabling and supportive environment for all ages. and ensure that all elderly people are benefiting from those services equivalently and without discrimination. In addition, they aim to ensure income security and decent living for the elderly and active participation in the society and development.

Fatma Al-Ajmi
Statistician in the Technical Office
of the National Population Committee

Today's Issue

The Link between Population and Education

Population growth and change generate a range of different effects, both direct and indirect, on levels of literacy, the educational development of a population, and thus on educational planning decisions. Population increase driven by high fertility leads almost immediately to an increase in the population of school-going age and consequently to a range of conflicting variations in demand relative to different educational requirements. Direct effects are seen in the changing patterns of enrolment rates and student/teacher ratios at all levels, generating increased demand for infrastructure (additional schools and/or class-rooms and other facilities), books, equipment and other relevant supplies, as well as for additional personnel, especially teachers, trainers and instructors. The recruitment and training of additional teaching-staff is needed simply to maintain student/teacher ratios at their current levels. The Omani population projections indicate that the size of the school-age population will increase substantially over the years of projection. In the first instance, the absolute number of enrolments must increase substantially merely in order to keep the proportion of children attending educational institutions constant at the current level. This alone would mean that much more than at present would have to be spent on education in the future. But if Oman were to plan for increasing the proportion of school-age children actually enrolled, or for improving the quality of the education delivered, or for extending the years of schooling, or for developing and expanding higher education, far greater amounts of investment in education will inevitably be needed. In other words, Oman will have to devote an increasing share of the available resources to creating additional educational facilities for the new population, even while working to clear the backlog of illiteracy and inadequate schooling. High rates of population growth (which usually occur concomitantly with high rates of female illiteracy) can have detrimental effects at either local or national level on the provision of educational services through the joint effect of high fertility and the production of large numbers of children who survive owing to the provision of modern medical and health care services.

Dr. Khalifa Al Brwani
Director of the National Census Office

The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

We continue the reviewing of the referral studies of the national population strategy prepared by the technical office of the national population committee with participation of representatives from different government authorities and institutions during 2000-2002. The subject of the second study is entitled:

Gender Parity and Woman Empowerment

The study, through its eight chapters, aimed to track the progress in the empowerment of Omani women in areas of education, health, economic activity, participation in decision-making, the legislative framework for women's rights and obligations in the Omani society and the difficulties and challenges facing the empowerment of women to play their role in achieving the goals of sustainable development. Also, the study included an analysis of the gender gap, wherever it exists, particularly in the acquired rights such as education, health, work ... etc..

The study concluded that, in spite of executive policies and mechanisms of the programs for upgrading the level and empowerment of Omani women, which has had a significant impact in achieving a qualitative leap in the development of Omani women, still there are some social, economic and cultural challenges and constraints which have restricted the participation of women in development. Such challenges and constraints constitutes cultural legacies on the role of women and functions in life, the alphabet and legal illiteracy among women, the concentration of private higher education institutions in Muscat Governorate, weakness of women contribution in economic activity, and the concentration of private sector establishments in Muscat Governorate.

The National Population Strategy of GCC Countries

The population strategy of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf derives its importance from four key facts:

1-The success of development efforts depends to a large extent on the close interrelationship between population and development since the integration of population variables in economic and development strategies contribute to achieving the objectives and improve life of the population. The consistency between economic and social development plans and population strategy plays an increasing role in promoting the link between population and development.

2-It is time for the Council States to depend on its Gulf cadres in the development. This can be achieved only through the implementation of a population strategy that aims at maximizing the role of citizens in sustainable development.

3-The reform of the imbalance in population structure due to the influx of expatriate manpower in the Gulf labor market depends on the adoption of a population strategy that pursue to modify the current structure, for the benefit of citizen, that achieve a balance between population and available resources.

4-The reality of population of the GCC countries and the current demographic transition and social and economic changes are interrelated and influences each other to highlight population challenges and issues of priority requiring planning appropriate population policies to deal with them.

Research Institutions in the Field of Population and Development

The International Institute of Social Studies:

The Institute was founded in 1952 by the Dutch University and the Netherlands Ministry of Education (The Hague). The Institute was assigned to conduct studies and public advisory services with regard to the areas of development and international cooperation. The Institute studies focus on topics related to development such as poverty, globalization, gender and inequality in the pursuit to form public awareness of events that can positively or negatively affect the development processes in societies, and to be a guide for low-income countries in development planning.

In addition, the Institute teaches different disciplines including economics, sociology, political science, public administration, international law and provide doctoral and master's programs and enroll students from 160 countries around the world. Also, the Institute organizes short training courses and programs and awards diploma certificates for those attending the courses.

The Institute is seeking to keep abreast of world events through organizing international conferences and panel discussions on current events. The Institute's staff are experts who are hired by many countries in research studies and advisory services in various fields of development.

In the first of January 2009, the Institute joined the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, which the graduates of the Institute will carry its name as of this year. The Institute has benefited from accession to develop many areas of innovative research and cooperation with various European universities.

More information about the International Institute can be obtained from the following website:
«<http://www.iss.edu/index.asp>»

Arab Countries Experiences in Population Policies.

Lebanon (The Permanent Population Committee - PPC)

The document of the national population policy - prepared by the PPC of the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with the State institutions , private entities and relevant international organizations - forms the general framework of population principles and policies in Lebanon and set the trends of the State for all population issues such as the population structure , reproductive health and family planning , women empowerment , internal and external migration as well as a number of other issues.

The priorities of this population policy were identified, and officially approved in 2001, confirming the consistency of trends of demographic variables with the objectives of sustainable development and integration of the population dimension in all aspects of planning to ensure the role of women in society and increase its participation in the economic and political cycle. Also, to improve the reproductive health in particular in the less developed regions, provide care and protection for children and mothers, reduce the rate of unemployment especially for the youth as well as observance for the welfare and the participation of the elderly, provision of training, social and physical environment suitable for the disabled, organizing migration from rural to urban areas and limiting the migration of professionals and intellectuals. The PPC undertakes a number of tasks including: spreading population awareness , follow-up the execution of the recommendations on population issues of the various international and regional conferences, cooperation with United Nations agencies related to the execution of the various population activities and programs, in addition to monitoring of policies and programs relating to population in Lebanon in cooperation with concerned ministries and the preparation of the population statistical studies and research. More information on the Committee can be found on the website:

<http://www.socialaffairs.gov.Lb/>

Population Terms

1-Rate of natural increase

Is the rate at which the population increases (or decreases) during a given year because of the birth surplus (or deficit) for mortality, and is expressed as a proportion of the basic number of the population. It is measured as follows:

Rate of natural increase =

$$\frac{(\text{births} - \text{deaths})}{(\text{Total population in mid-year})} \times 100$$

Source: National Population Commission. [Manual for Population](#). Jordan.

2- Rate of illiteracy

Percentage of population (15 years and over) who can not write and read in any language a simple statement that include words and numbers about their everyday lives, as well as those who can read without writing . It is measured as follows:

The illiteracy rate =

$$\frac{\text{number of illiterate population 15 years and over}}{\text{The total population in this age group}} \times 100$$

Source: Ministry of National Economy (2006), [Manual of methodologies of indicators of sustainable development](#). Muscat.

Arab and International Days

September 8	International Literacy Day
October 11	International Day of Older Persons
November 20	Universal Children's Day
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Population Indicators (Oman 2008) :

The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel **98.6**¹

TB incidence rate per 10,000 of the Omani population **4.7**¹

Proportion of Omani civil servants **88.2**²

The proportion of divorced women benefiting from social security pension from total social security cases **16.0**³

Life expectancy at birth for males **69.11**⁴

1. Ministry of Health.

2. Ministry of Civil Service . (2009). [Statistical Yearbook of civil servants 2008](#).

3. Ministry of Social Development.

4. Ministry of National Economy. (2009). [Facts and Figures 2008](#).

Do You Know ?

- In 2000, the number of elderly (60 years and over) the in the world was around 600 million people, almost triple the number present in 1950¹.
- About 100 million children are still not enrolled in primary schools, 55% of them are girls².
- Today the median age for the world is 28 years, that half the world population is under that age¹.
- 771 million people aged 15 and above live without basic literacy skills².
- Japan is the oldest population country in world with median age of 43 years¹.

(1) United Nations. (2007). [World population ageing](#).

(2) The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.(2005). [Report Education for All \(literacy for life\)](#).

Technical Office of the National Population Committee Publications

Women and Men in the Sultanate of Oman: A Statistical Profile

The report comprises a statistical image of women and men statuses in the Sultanate of Oman at several aspects such as population characteristics, vital variables, social and economic conditions, using data from the 1993 and 2003 General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, a number of health and social surveys and available statistical books in order to identify the gender gaps as to enable addressing by the State.



Invitation for Participation

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

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