

Population and Development



National Population Committee
Technical Office

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LUMINOUS WORDS

“You are aware of the extent of the attention we accord to the development of human resources in order to provide our young sons and daughters with wider and better opportunities of education, training and employment. This is almost a fixed item in each of our speeches addressed through you to all the people of Oman. There can be no doubt that the human being is the basic component and the cornerstone of any viable civilization. We, therefore, once again reaffirm the importance of this element in the development and modernization of society.”

Qaboos bin Said

The annual session of the Council of Oman
22 Shawal 1427 AH – 14th November 2006

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EDITORIAL

The issue of the “**Population and Development**” bulletin comes at the time of the celebrations of the World Environment Day, which takes place yearly on the 5th of June. This day coincides at the same day with the convening of the first world Conference on Environment held in Stockholm (Sweden) in 1972 and with the endorsement of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Theme of the World Environment Day this year (2009): “Your Planet Needs You - Unite to Combat Climate Change” is an evidence of the world interest in the issue of climate change and its impact on human health, the surrounding environment and the efforts directed to this issue.

The Sultanate’s continued efforts are streamlined with those of the international community directed to solving environment issues, especially the climate change, through a set of policies and regulations carefully designed and implemented under the guidance of H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said. His Majesty always calls for balancing socio-economical development efforts with the continued efforts of preservation of the environment and its natural resources.

I hope this bulletin would contribute towards strengthening the efforts directed towards maintaining the natural and environmental wealth to attain sustainable development

Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al Busaidi
Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs

The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

One of the basic pillars of sound and serious planning for the preparation of an applicable population strategy is the analysis of the realities and recognition of the challenges, difficulties and the factors influencing the various population issues. These fundamentals have led the Technical Office of the National Population Committee to prepare eight reference studies in 2000, with the participation of representatives from the different government and institutions in Oman, and one these studies is:

The Sultanate Population: Past, Present and Future

This study analyzed the levels, trends of population growth and its determinants since 1970, the follow-up of fertility, mortality, age and sex structure trends, in addition to the analysis of the changes in household and marriage composition during the previous years. The study also addressed the impact of population projections, based on three fertility assumptions, on education, health, labour market, housing and water sectors. The study recommended the importance of working towards achieving higher economic growth rates in comparison with the population growth rates, to ensure improvement of the standard of living for the population and enhancing regional development to curb migration to urban centers. The study also recommended the continuation of the birth spacing programme to reduce children and mothers mortality rates and direct more attention to the compatibility between the output of the education system and the labour market requirements to lessen dependence on expatriate labour force which would lead to changing the Sultanates population structure.

The National Population Strategy of GCC countries

Within the framework of strengthening cooperation between GCC member countries in the field of population and national labour force, the population strategy general framework for the GCC countries was endorsed by the Supreme Council at its ninth session held in 1998. This general framework of the GCC population strategy is considered as reference document for member states when formulating their population policies in a manner that serves the coordination of these policies among them. The general objectives of the strategy are summarized as follows;

- 1- Achieving balance in population composition and labour force structure.
- 2- Achieving population balance in GCC states in light of available resources.
- 3- Achieving balanced development among regions to curb internal migration to towns.
- 4- Developing human capital through the provision of appropriate health care, education and training.
- 5- Improving the educational system which is capable of pursuing new trends and meeting the labour market requirements.
- 6- Achieving full and optimum utilization of GCC labour force.
- 7- Increasing Citizens' participation rate in economic activity together with the opening of new job opportunities for GCC women.
- 8- Replacing GCC labour force for expatriate labour force.
- 9- Enhancing population statistics and labour market data together with the unification of definitions and concepts relevant to these data.

Research Institutions in the field of Population and Development

The International Institute for Population Sciences

It was established in Mumbai, India in 1956 as a joint cooperative effort between the government of India and the UN under the name "The Demographic Centre for Research and Training". The Institute was established upon the recommendation of Pandong Seminar held by United Nations in cooperation with its regional commissions in 1955. This period has also witnessed the establishment of similar institutes in Chile, Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon and Romania. In 1985 the Indian institute was affiliated to the Ministry of Health, Family and Community Affairs for meeting the needs of India and other countries served by the UN Economic commission for Asia and the Far East in the field of demography.

The Institute is specialized in offering academic consultations for government and non-government units and the different academic institutes, in addition to its contribution in building the vocational core in the area of population and health in the different countries of the world through awarding diplomas to those who enrol in them after being subjected to technical and vocational training in one of the following areas: demography, statistics, social research methods, economics, genetics and human cloning. The institute also awards master and PhD certificate in philosophy and population studies. The Institute has finalized numerous studies and research related to fertility, family planning, internal migration and urbanization, in addition to evaluation of census data and the interrelationship between population and development. The institute accepts students from all member countries of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

More information about the International Institute for Population Sciences can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.iipsindia.org/>

Arab Countries Experiences in Population Policies.

The National Board for Family & Population, Tunisia

The National Board for Family and Population was established in 1973 as a public organization under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health and entrusted with the implementation of the government policy in population development and reproductive health.

The Board carries out socioeconomic and demographic studies and research aiming at acquainting families and the community at large about population issues and the relation between population and economic growth. The Board also assumes the responsibility for submitting all legislative and organizational proposals directed towards achieving the coordination between population growth and the country's economic and social development, leading to the welfare of the family and progress of its members. The Board also undertakes the preparation of work programmes aiming at developing the family and maintaining its stability in cooperation with the relevant public and private authorities in addition to its participation in the follow up of the implementation of the national goals pertinent to demographic and family policies. The Board also assumes the responsibility of training and retraining the staff of health, social and education institutions especially in the field of family planning, maintaining the safety of the family. Moreover, the Board performs information and educational activities on a continuous basis for the benefit of the population, especially at family, school, professional and organizational levels.

More information can be attained from the following web site:

<http://www.onfp.tn>

Base of Development Indicators (DevInfo)

During the period 1995-2003 the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) undertook the establishment of Children information (ChildInfo) database for the purpose of monitoring the objectives set out at the World Summit for Children. Based on this database, the United Nations carried out the development and introduction of (DevInfo) indicators base with the purpose of monitoring human development in the countries of the world, together with the provision of data for the Millennium Development Goals and follow up of their achievement in a unified manner that allows international comparisons .

The (DevInfo) database is considered one of the advanced databases. which can be used for collection and analysis of indicators and their presentation in tables, charts or maps, together with loading these indicators in the official website (Dev Info) on the internet .

The website will allow international comparisons, the follow-up of the development of these indicators in any region or international group. The reports derived from this database can be transformed into different forms such as: WORD, POWERPOINT, XLS, HTML, PDF files. The database is provided free of any charge and does not need special programming language for its operation .

The (DevInfo) database is now days widely used by governments, United Nations Organizations and academic institutions.

Source: <http://www.devinfo.org>

International Day of Families

May 15 is celebrated as the International Day of Families since 1994 as the family assumes a significant role in furthering development. The family constitutes the basic unit of society and is the firm foundation upon which the society is built. Therefore, the family founded on righteous foundations is considered a basic mainstay for the creation of a coherent community that cop with civilization and development. Family is the prime social system on which the community relay for transmission of the cultural traditions from one generation to another and acts as an educative unit. Accordingly, it is the most important tribute of development that provide its main element which is the human element.

The Sultanate awarded observance for the Omani family in order to perform its assigned role in a well manner. It exerted efforts to provide well-being and decent life for Omani families through various development programmes. The Sultanate also set aside programmes for needy families by provision of financial and in-kind support through various programmes such as livelihood projects. This to achieve social justice and preserve family coherence.

The family is the extension of human life and the basis of society, that is why a concerted efforts is essential to promote the family role so as to perform its message well, and maintain the family structure to achieve the desired development.

D. Amal Al Shanfari
Expert in Social Policy

Today's issue

The Links between Population and Health

These can be examined at two levels: first, the effects of population changes on the health services; secondly, the effects of factors related to population, such as fertility, family-planning practice, birth-spacing, morbidity and mortality. As for the effects of population changes on health services, there are at least three aspects that should be considered. The first is the growth in population. Although the Sultanate has succeeded in reducing fertility rates in previous years, the size of the population is still expected to grow in the near future owing to the nature of the momentum of population growth resulting from high fertility rates in the past. This growth in the size of the population is clearly increasing the requirements for all types of health-care services both at present and in the future. The second consideration is that the change in fertility and mortality rates in previous years has had an impact on the age- and gender-structure of the population. This change has a corresponding impact on the structure and nature of future health-service requirements. When fertility and population growth rates remain at a constant high level, this will lead to a rise in population, especially among infants and children under five years of age, which will place an increasing demand on the health services. High fertility rates also entail an increased demand for health services to be provided to mothers during pregnancy. However since 1994 the Government has adopted a policy of promoting birth-spacing particularly amongst women of child-bearing age. As a result of these policy, it is expected that Oman will enter into the so-called demographic opportunity, in which the low proportion of the population in the age-brackets containing children and the elderly will bring about a population in which there is a high proportion of people of economically-active age. This will act to reduce health-service demands for a certain period in the future. Third, the changes in the geographical distribution of the population are likely to have effects on the distribution of health-care services. Access to health services is difficult for a high proportion of the population living in rural areas.

D.Khalifa Al Brwani
Director of the National Census Office

Population Terms

1- Demographic Window

It is the change in the population age structure denoting that the population at working age (15-64) exceeds proportion of those in dependency age (less than 15 and more than 64 years of age).

Source: Attaf Al Hadeed. Utilizing the Demographic Upsurge in Jordan and presenting the experiences of South East Asian countries. A working Paper presented to the 3rd National Forum on Population and Development under the theme (Population and the Demographic Upsurge), Amman 26-27 March 2007, page 2.

2- Repetition Rates in grades (1-12) :

Repetition rate is the percentage of students repeating a particular grade compared to those enrolled in the same grade in the previous year. it is calculated as follows :

$$\text{Repetition Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students repeating a particular grade in a given year}}{\text{Total students enrolled in that grade in the previous year}} \times 100$$

Source: Ministry of National Economy.(2006). Sustainable Development Indicators Methodologies Manual.

Arab and International Days

International Day of Families	May 15
World Environment Day	June 5
World Population Day	June 11
World Day for Eradication of Illiteracy	August 8
World Youth Day	August 12

Do You Know ?

- 55% of the Population of the Arab countries live in urban areas (2006).
- 67.5% is the average life expectancy at birth in Arab countries (2006).
- 61% of the Population of the Arab countries were at the age group (15-65) years (2005).
- 15% of youth at age group (15-24) years in the Arab countries were illiterate (2005).
- 35% of the population of the Arab countries were below the age of 15 years (2005).
- 86% of the Population of the Arab countries have access to safe drinking water (2004).

source: Unified Economic Report. (2008). Arab Monetary Fund.

Population Indicators (Oman 2007) :

- Percentage of Omani youth in age group (15-29) **38.5⁽¹⁾**
- Crude birth rate (per 1000 Population) **25.0⁽²⁾**
- Percentage of conserved lands and sea areas out of total Sultanate area **2.55⁽⁴⁾**
- Life expectancy at birth **72.0⁽²⁾**
- Number of students per teacher in grades (10-12) **17.0⁽³⁾**

1- Ministry of National Economy. (2008). Statistical Year Book.

2- Ministry of Health.(2008). Health Facts 2007.

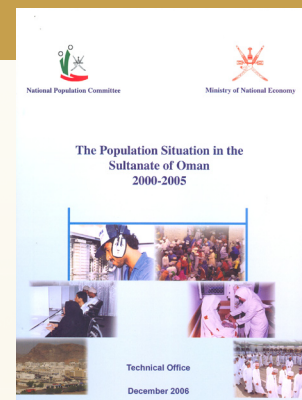
3- Ministry of Education.(2008).Annual Book of Education Statistics 2007/2008.

4- Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs.

The Publications of the Technical Office of the National Population Committee

Population Situation in the Sultanate of Oman 2000-2005:

The booklet, which was issued by the Technical Office of the National Population Committee in December 2006, reviews the population situation in the Sultanate of Oman during the period 2000-2005. It addresses the population characteristics and reviews the different dimensions of development such health, education, urbanization and labour force in addition to the social care sector.



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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