1. Introduction

The 2001 Namibia Population and Housing Census is the second post-independence census, the first one having been undertaken in 1991. Preparation for this census commenced in 1999, when the draft Census Project Document was prepared and later submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet approved the document and authorized the National Planning Commission Secretariat, where the Central Bureau of Statistics is located, to undertake the census.

The census pre-enumeration activities were then put in place. These included, among others, the establishment of the various census committees, the procurement of equipment and materials, geographic demarcation of the country, preparation of the various census materials, including questionnaires and census publicity.
A population census can be undertaken using either the *de facto* or the *de jure* approach. The latter involves the enumeration of the population by the usual place of residence, while the former requires the enumeration of the population at the actual place of enumeration on a specific point in time. The *de fact* approach was used during this census. The night of 27th to the morning of 28th August 2001 was designated as the Census Reference Night. All persons who spent this night in Namibia, irrespective of their citizenship, nationality or residence were enumerated at the place where they spent this reference night. It should be noted that Namibian citizens who were out of the country on this reference night were not eligible for enumeration.

One of the most important factors in census enumeration is to ensure complete geographical coverage of the whole country. For this to be achieved, the whole country was demarcated into small geographical areas known as enumeration areas. Maps of these small areas, with properly demarcated boundaries, were produced. Interviewers were then assigned to each one of these areas for the census enumeration. It should be noted that the demarcation exercise was undertaken within each constituency for the purpose of obtaining the population figure for every constituency, region and finally the country as a whole. The number of enumeration areas demarcated for the census were 4042.
The census information was collected through a questionnaire, which was administered by trained interviewers. The content of the questionnaire was discussed by all relevant stakeholders, to ensure that all data users’ basic needs were met. Three types of questionnaires were used. The main one, known as Form A was used for the household. The second one, Form B, was applied to institutional population, while the third one, Form C, was used for the homeless and the overnight travelers.

Form A, the household questionnaire, was made up of the following sections:

Section A: Identification particulars of the household;
Section B: Basic information on all members of the household;
Section C: Early childhood development for those aged 3-6 years;
Section D: Literacy and education particulars for those aged 6 years and above;
Section E: Labour force questions for those aged 8 years and above;
Section F: Fertility information for females aged 12 - 49 years;
Section G: Housing conditions and other household characteristics;
Section Control Section for administrative and logistical purposes.

DISSEMINATION OF POPULATION CENSUS RESULTS

Form B, the institutional questionnaire, is the same as Form A, except that Sections F and G on housing conditions and household characteristics and mortality, are not included. Form C, the questionnaire for the homeless, overnight travelers and persons who were in hotels and lodges, was a relatively short form, which collected information on age, sex marital status, citizenship and place of usual residence.

Various tools of publicity were used to sensitize the public about the census and the need for their support and cooperation. The main ones were:

• The local press which included newspapers, radio and television. In addition to the normal census press releases which were covered by the news media, special articles and programmes about the census were also produced.
• Census information pamphlets and posters, in all the major languages, were produced and widely disseminated to the public.
• A census song, in all the main languages, was composed by one of the top artist in the country, and aired in most of the radio stations.
• The Regional Census Committees played a major role in census publicity in their respective regions.
• The Census Publicity Steering Committee played the leading role in providing guidance and support in all the aspects of census publicity.
2. Dissemination of census results

2.1 The Preliminary Report
The first census report was the Preliminary Report, which was released in March 2002, about five months after the completion of the census enumeration. This report was provisional and provides information on the total population by sex at constituency, regional and national levels. It is based on provisional results, which were manually compiled in the regions soon after the enumeration exercise. These were further checked at the Head Office for finalization of the report.

The aim of the Preliminary Report was to provide quick results of the total count to satisfy ‘hungry’ data users who needed such information, while data processing and detailed analysis was in progress.

The dissemination of this report was undertaken through:

(i) Formal launching of the report itself with very wide media coverage
(ii) Circulation of the report to all Government institutions at all levels
(iii) Circulation of the report to all educational institutions from primary to tertiary
(iv) Circulation of the report to parliamentarians and other top level decision makers
(v) Circulation of the report to all international agencies with offices in the country
(vi) Circulation of the report to all relevant NGOs
(vii) Inclusion of the report on the Government web-site

In addition, copies were also available for sale, at a nominal price, for the private sector as well as for the rest of the public.
2.2 Dissemination of the National Report

The National Report was finalized and printed in July 2003. This is a detailed report of the whole census information, which was collected and provided basic indicators on the population characteristics as well as the household and housing conditions at national, urban and rural and regional levels.

Various tools of dissemination were adopted:

(i) Official launching of the report with very wide media coverage. The print media ran a series of articles covering the various aspects from the report. The various radio channels, using the main local languages, provided a wide coverage on the results.

(ii) Dissemination workshops were held at national and regional levels. These were intended to provide a detailed understanding of the census results including the basic concepts, definitions and limitations. The target audience for these workshops were planners from all line ministries, decision-makers, including politicians, traditional and community leaders as well as leaders of all relevant NGOs

(iii) Posters and leaflets in all major languages in the country, with all main indicators, were produced. These have been circulated widely to ensure that they are accessible to all members of the public at the grass-root level. These posters are also available at all major public places like schools, hospitals and other government offices where the public frequent.
(iv) Copies of the report have been sent to all public institutions of learning from primary schools to tertiary institutions, public libraries, etc.

(v) Copies of the report have been circulated to all line ministries at both national and regional levels.

(vi) Copies of the report have been circulated to all members of parliament, including cabinet, members of regional councils and all political parties.

(vii) Copies of the report have also been circulated to all international agencies with offices in the country.

(viii) Copies of the report have been circulated to all diplomatic missions with offices in the country.

In addition, copies are also available for sale, at a nominal price, for the private sector as well as for the rest of the public.

Plans are underway to produce CD ROMs for use by technical data users who may have plans to undertake more detailed analysis of the census data. The Super Cross and PC Axis software will be utilized for this purpose. Planners from the line ministries as well as those from the regions will be trained on the use of such software. At some stage, these results will also be displayed on the Government website.
2.3. Dissemination of Regional Reports

The census programme also calls for the production of regional reports. The coverage of the census results will include regional as well as constituency level information. So far, only the first of the 13 regional reports has been produced and disseminated. The means of dissemination will follow the national pattern but will be limited to the region under consideration.

2.4. Other census reports

There are also plans to produce other reports. These include:

(i) Administrative and Methodological Report, and
(ii) Population Census Atlas

The latter will be disseminated widely to all institutions of learning, libraries, etc.

Thank You,

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Namibia