

USE OF CENSUS DATA IN URBAN PLANNING

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THE need for socio-economic data for any level of urban planning hardly needs any restatement. Any comprehensive document on urban planning prepared in this country or outside will emphasise the importance of studies on economic and demographic base for the area under review. The object of this paper is to point out how best we can make use of the wealth of information to be generated by 1971 census of India, which embodies significant improvement over the earlier censuses in matters of detail, for the purpose of urban planning. This will also throw light on the possible savings in magnitude or contents of surveys related to comprehensive urban studies provided census data are made available according to requirements. Sometimes, a little modification or extension of the tabulation plan of 1971 census may be extremely useful in generating data relevant to urban planning.

A. Census Tabulations and Socio-Economic Plan Frame for Urban Planning

The entire data of 1971 census as collected through house-listing, establishment schedule and individual slips may be broadly divided as follows: (i) General Population Table, (ii) General Economic Table, (iii) Social and Cultural Table, (iv) Migration Table, (v) Housing and Establishment Table, and (vi) Fertility Table.

It may be worthwhile to examine how the different tabulations under the six broad categories noted above are relevant to the broad elements of the usual socio-economic plan frame for comprehensive planning for any urban region or city. It is also appropriate to examine how the combined tabulations of census data help in analysing the critical problems of the area under study as well as in projecting in aggregate, the economy and population. The elements of the socio-economic plan frame as an integral part of urban planning may be broadly described as follows: