

UNDER-REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS IN INDIA

G. K. MEHROTRA*

ATTEMPTS TO MEASURE under-registration of births, through survey methods, were made in the Western countries in the past¹, when the registration system was very poor. Now with the registration system of the U.S.A., the U.K., etc., netting more than 90 per cent of vital events, the need for such surveys in those countries is practically over. As it is, the registration system in our country is very much deficient for various reasons, and as such planned studies² on the Western lines, initiated recently, have become a necessity. The paper aims to measure under-registration of births using analytical techniques, and it is hoped that the results of this analysis would serve as a check against survey-findings. The results of under-registration of births according to sex and the derived birth-rates for the states in India are discussed for the three quinquennia 1951-55, 1956-60 and 1961-65.

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¹ P. K. WHELPTON, *The Completeness of Birth Registration in the United States*, JASA, Vol. XXIX, No. 186, June, 1934.

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² Registrar General, India: (a) *Survey of Births and Deaths Missed by Registration in India*, Mimeo., 1966, and (b) *Sample Registration Scheme*, Mimeo., 1964.