

# ABRIDGED LIFE TABLES FOR RURAL INDIA, 1966-67

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## *Introduction*

Life Tables in India have been usually prepared from the Census data by the actuaries. Beyond this, very little work has been done. Some of the reasons are obvious. The registration of births and deaths in the country is extremely poor, especially for events relating to death. The apathy of the citizens apart, social and cultural factors have also played an important part in holding the situation where it is. To obtain the age and sex mortality from the registration statistics of the country is, therefore, nearly impossible. Any attempt to do so will involve the use of intricate mathematical devices, which becomes prohibitive.

Under the circumstances, the possibility of constructing life tables comes only from some of the sample surveys that have been conducted in India. Two different kinds of surveys are being conducted currently. One is the National Sample Survey where data on fertility and mortality are collected for the rural areas; the other source, which is a more recent one, is the scheme of Sample Registration of Births and Deaths (SRS)<sup>1</sup> of the Registrar General, India. In this paper, use has been made of the mortality data obtained from the latter source. The enquiry related to the usual residents of households in randomly selected units in rural areas<sup>2</sup> of each State. The abridged life tables presented here are based on the age-specific mortality rates for rural India<sup>3, 4</sup> and are made separately for males

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<sup>1</sup> Brief description of the scheme may be seen in the Annexure.

<sup>2</sup> Urban area coverage in SRS started from January, 1968.

<sup>3</sup> Data relate to 12 States only. Names are given in the Annexure.

<sup>4</sup> The data are not free from sampling and non-sampling errors. It is, however, not within the purview of this paper to comment on the extent of these errors or on the adequacy of the Sample. The life tables have been constructed on the basis of the registration statistics obtained during the continuous enumeration operation of the Survey with some adjustments which are mentioned in the text.