

## **REGISTRATION OF VITAL EVENTS IN GOA—A STUDY OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM IN RETROSPECT**

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GOA is a territory located on the Western Coast of India. Bounded on the western side by the Arabian Sea, to the north of this territory Maharashtra State is situated and to the east-south Mysore State delimits its boundary. The length of Goa from the extreme north and the south comprises of 105 Km. and measures 60 Km. at the widest from east to west. The District of Goa is divided into eleven *concelhos* (Taluks) viz., Goa (Ilhas), Salsete, Bardez, Mormugoa, Ponda, Bicholim, Pernem, Quepem, Sanguem, Canacona, and Satari. Each *concelho* is further divided into villages.

Very few studies seem to have been made about the demographic characteristics of the Goans. Fortunately, Goa is the only place in India where a good amount of data on births, deaths and marriages are available in the old parish records and civil registers kept in the registration offices. These data are very useful for demographers and historians alike to study the growth and trend of the Goan population even in the remote past. The registration data available in Goa can be further utilized to estimate the marriage patterns, mortality and fertility levels and mobility of the Goan population. The utility of the registration data is itself evident in a country like India where the census remains the major source of demographic studies in spite of the fact that it has many errors and biases. In the present paper, we have examined the extent of quality registration data available for Goa in time and space.

### *2. Registration in the Past*

It is believed that the system of registering vital events — births (baptism), deaths and marriages — is very old in the Union terri-

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