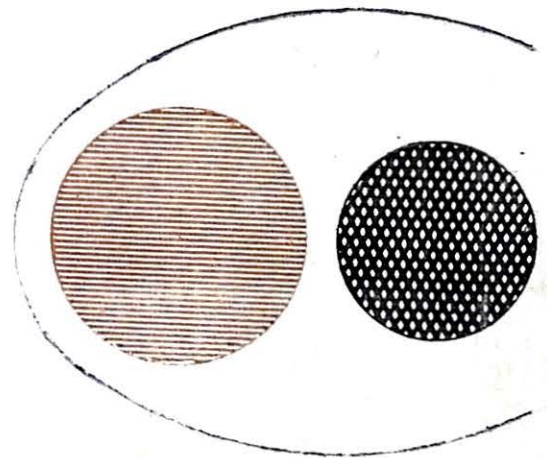


SRS ANALYTICAL SERIES
NO 1. 1971



INFANT MORTALITY

IN INDIA



VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI

P R E F A C E

The increasing acuteness of the population problem in India has resulted in a more insistent demand that methods be devised and used which give a quick and reliable measure of the birth and death rates on a current and continuous basis. Scientific approaches to the problem in the collection of good demographic statistics are now receiving attention in many countries where the registration system is poor. The conventional vital registration system is limited in data content and it cannot satisfy many modern data needs for study of factors related to population change. Further in many of the developing countries, vital registration system requires many years to reach a satisfactory stage of accuracy and completeness. In order to measure the short-term change in the growth of population so essential for planning, the System of Sample Registration of Births and Deaths in India (SRS) was evolved. This System which was established in a few States in 1966, now extends to all parts of India.

The Sample Registration System has thus reached a stage of stability and maturity. The vast mass of data thrown up by the System now requires to be analysed and evaluated on a more intensive scale than hitherto. Evaluation of the data obtained through SRS serves to improve the working of the System. In this connection a Study Team has been set up with the primary object of studying the actual working of the System in the field and to suggest measures for bringing out improvement in the field operations. Also analytical studies based on SRS data are being undertaken. A comprehensive list of analytical and evaluation studies has been drawn up to evaluate the different aspects of the system and also to examine the structure and the design. As pointed out by Dr. Forrest E. Linder "this list of studies will be most useful as a check list of matters to be considered by other countries that may be considering the initiation of a dual-report sample vital statistics scheme". The deficiencies in this System arising mostly from variations in the accuracy of field work and in varying levels of rigour in supervision could be brought out in the studies listed. The studies have been categorised into:-

- i) Efficiency of the sample design
- ii) Performance of the Enumerators & Supervisors
- iii) Matching
- iv) Vital Rates
- v) Infant mortality
- vi) Population
- vii) Migration &

viii) Miscellaneous

These studies will be undertaken both by the Centre and by States.

3. The present study of infant mortality in India is the first of the Analytical Study Series and is aimed at providing estimates of infant mortality and its components. Estimates of still birth rate and peri-natal mortality by sex are also furnished. Infant mortality is a sensitive indicator of the socio-economic and health conditions prevailing in the country. It is hoped that this study would be useful in tackling the problem of high infant mortality in India.

4. Sample Registration System is a Centre-State venture and the progress registered so far would not have been possible without the active cooperation of the several implementing agencies in the States to whom my thanks are due. I am specially thankful to the Planning Commission which has taken considerable interest in the establishment and progress of the scheme. The compilation and analysis part of the study has been an onerous responsibility of the Sample Registration Unit of the Vital Statistical Division of this Department. I wish to record my appreciation of the dedicated work put in by the staff of the Sample Registration Unit. This study was handled by Shri V.S. Swamy, Senior Research Officer and Shri Lal Krishna Asstt. Director of Census Operations (Technical) under the guidance of Shri V.K. Ramabhadran, Deputy Registrar-General, India (Vital Statistics).

2nd December, 1971
NEW DELHI
A. CHANDRA SEKHAR
Registrar-General, India.

(v)

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