



CHAPTER ON CENSUS OF INDIA 2011

DATA HANDLING IN REAL LIFE

A census is a complete count of all the persons living in a country on a particular date, carried out at fixed intervals. The Census of India is conducted once every ten years, and the particular date fixed by the Government is 1st March. The next census is to be conducted in February 2011.

Another name for Census is Population Enumeration. For this purpose, the Government sends its representatives, called enumerators – meaning, persons who count, from house to house in every part of the country, to ask some questions to the people living there. The replies are written down by the enumerators in special forms, and the data in these forms is compiled and analyzed with the help of computers to obtain a lot of information about the country and its people. The Census of India is one of the biggest data handling exercises in the world.

Census data is published for the country as a whole, as well as for each State and Union Territory separately. In fact, Census data is available for every district, taluk, city, town, ward, and village in the country. The data for the 2001 Census is available on the Census of India website.

The data is of immense importance for formulation of policy and future plans. It helps government in taking decision on where and how to spend Government money for the welfare of the people. The data is available to everyone and can be used to find out characteristics of population of any area. The information obtained from Census data is used for delimitation of constituencies in our country. Census data is used by the Economists and Social Scientists for research to gain more knowledge about trends, which may not otherwise come to light.

Do you know that the topics you have already learnt till now in your maths classes are sufficient for you to yourself analyse census data in many useful and interesting ways? You will find out when you solve the examples given below. You can collect more data of interest to you from the Census website, and analyse that too.

Exercises

1. The total population of India as per 2001 Census was 1,028,737,436. There are 35 States and Union Territories. What is the average population of each State/Union Territory? The State of Uttar Pradesh had the highest population of 166,997,121. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep had the smallest population of 60,650. What is the range of population?
2. The smallest Union Territory is Lakshadweep with an area of 32 sq.km. Its population in 2001 was 60,650. What was the average density of population per sq. km. in Lakshadweep?
3. A “census house” is a building or part of a building recognized as a separate unit. Thus not only homes but also shops, offices, schools etc. are “census houses”. In Delhi, there were a total of 3 million occupied census houses in 2001. Of these, 2.32

million were being used as residences. What percentage of occupied census houses in Delhi was residential in nature?

4. In the State of Arunachal Pradesh, as per 2001 data, in East Siang district, there were a total of 145 villages and 116 primary schools. In upper Subansiri district, there were 400 villages and 141 primary schools. What percent of villages have a primary school in each district?
5. The sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males. In the whole of India, as per Census 2001 data, there were 532 million males and 496 million females. In Haryana, there were 11.4 million males and 9.8 million females. What is the sex ratio for India? What is the sex ratio for Haryana?
6. The table shows the literacy rates, that is, the percentage of literate persons in the total population, in seven states. Find the median of these values. Which state does it refer to?

State	Literacy rate
Rajasthan	60
Uttar Pradesh	57
Bihar	47
Jharkhand	54
Chhattisgarh	65
Madhya Pradesh	64
Andhra Pradesh	61

7. The population of India as per each census from 1901 onwards is given in the table below:

Year	Population in million
1901	238
1911	252
1921	251
1931	279
1941	319
1951	361
1961	439
1971	548
1981	683
1991	846
2001	1,029

- a) Show this information in the form of a bar graph.
- b) The total area of India is 3.2 million sq.km. What was the average density of population in 1901? What was the average density in 2001?
- c) What is the percentage change in population from 1951 to 2001?