

An Innovative Model on Needs Assessment of Demographic Statistics in the ECO Major Countries at the International Publications

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to highlight and identify needs of demographic statistics in the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) major countries which are consisted Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey countries at the international publications. The paper is designed to answer the main question that do countries with different historical experiences and development levels manifest similar quality and condition demographic data producing at the international level? Data are taken from the *Demographic Yearbooks* which are conducted by United Nations Statistics Division,1997 and 2007.

According to *Kaufman* theory on needs, needs assessment is a process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions. Conceptual framework is divided two categories which are current needs demographic data and those are not presented at the international scale. Finally, we used and compared with the programme of action of the international conference on population and development (ICPD) Cairo (1994) on policy recommendation for demographic data producing. It involves identifying material weaknesses and strengths, and evaluating possible solutions that take those qualities into consideration.

Key words: Demographic data, Needs assessment, ECO Countries

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Introduction

There are a number of principles of good practice that must be remembered when collecting information either as part of a needs assessment or an ongoing programme requirement. As we know, data is collected to help in assessing needs, to monitor ongoing projects and programmes, and to assist in evaluations. Data gathering is not an objective or an end in itself, but it is crucial to the success of a project or programme. Data is collected to support quality programming, ensuring lives are saved and objectives met successfully. Policy decisions, planning, and monitoring all require accurate and timely data. Population censuses and vital registration have referred to as the "classical" sources of demographic data.

The current supply of data does not meet the demand, for several reasons. Firstly, surveys and censuses are generally lacking, although the severity of this problem varies across geographical regions; for example, only 50% of the population of Africa was covered by a census between 1994 and 2004, compared to 95% of Asia (Dupriez, 2007). This data gap is exacerbated by problems with the reliability, comparability, relevance and timeliness, accessibility, and usability of surveys and censuses that do exist (Ibid). According to *Kaufman* theory on needs, needs assessment is a process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions. Needs assessment is valuable tool to help us direct and target our programming to achieve the best results.

The aim of this paper is to highlight and identify needs of demographic statistics of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) major countries which are consisted Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey countries in the international publications. The paper is designed to answer the main question that do countries with different historical experiences and development levels manifest similar quality and condition demographic data presenting at the international level? This paper implies a check of the quality of the demographic data with considering their gaps at the ECO region countries as well as.

Data and Method

Data are taken from the *Demographic Yearbooks* which are conducted by United Nations Statistics Division, 1997 and 2007. Conceptual framework is divided two categories which are current needs demographic data and those are not presented at the international scale. We compared this issue with the programme of action of the international conference on population and development (ICPD) Cairo (1994) on policy recommendation for demographic data producing. It involves identifying material weaknesses and strengths, and evaluating possible solutions that take those qualities into consideration.

Theoretical Framework

Understanding the concept of need largely depends on one's perception and the society or the context which is studied. The concept of need is relative and it is influenced by values, attitudes and norms. Any need assessment technique is based on special definition of need and its domain and boundaries. Therefore, it is necessary that different opinions and beliefs in relation to the concept of need and consequently need assessment to be considered and diversity of perceptions of the concept to be clarified.

Psychologists divide "need" to two groups of primary and secondary needs. Physiologists pay attention to the biologic aspect of "need", for economists, needs relation to customers demand is important. Regardless of specialists, public have different understanding of need concept.

Generally from the social point of view definitions of need can be divided in four categories:

A: Need as a gap between current and desired conditions

One of the most common and accepted definitions of need is the definition proposed by Kaufman. He suggest that need is denoted on the situation in which current condition distant from desired condition and need assessment means fitting the distance between the current state and ideal condition and fitting the priorities for acting. Gilley and Eggland define need as a gap between a group of current condition and desired condition and they suggest that the process of measuring and scientific evaluating of these gaps is need assessment.

Bradshaw boor, believe that definition of need assessment as a distance determination between the current and desired conditions is not a complete and comprehended definition. According to his view, when this definition is accepted, our actions in need assessment process will be limited to determine the desired condition (goals), current actions (current condition), and measuring the gap between these two. Then need assessment means process of goals determination, presenting the current condition, measuring needs and priorities for the action.

What distinguishes this description with others is the priorities of needs, and classification of needs according to their importance.

B: Need as a desire or preference

Need assessment, from this point of view, is the process of reviewing, and gathering opinions of individuals and groups about needs and to create consensus among the different views. What makes up the core of this theory is that views and ideas of individuals and groups in relation to needs, is the main focus of the need assessment, not the gap between the existing and preferred situation. If need be considered as an

individual's desire, it is necessary that need assessment process, focus on determining the perceptions and the opinions of people. Many criticisms about this definition have been made such that the comments from people have not sufficient exactness and objectivity and perhaps also not based on fact, while the need is a concrete situation which is proposed about people. Furthermore, need can not always be the same as demand, because people may want of prefer some things but they are not needed. Meanwhile, when diseases, once may need to be injected because it is necessary for his health, but prefer not to be injected. Hence it can be resulted that individuals can not be always the best referee for their needs.

C: Need as a defect or shortcoming

This description of need assessment, despite the two pervious definitions has been less supported. From this view, need assessment is the process of identifying negative functions or the factors negatively influences on the functions. In other words according to Scriven's definition of need, need assessment is the method of recognizing the issues, difficulties and shortcoming in the once, individuals and organization's operation, which is containing recognition of ideal condition and diagnosis of problems and difficulties of the current situation.

D: Synthetic approach

Here all the mentioned descriptions are accepted. Need assessment as process of identifying the gap between the current and ideal situation, and weakness points as well as reviewing opinions and attitudes is considered.

Finding

Table 1 shows situation of demographic data by source in the demographic yearbook for Iran in 1997. As indicated in this table, number of demographic data items which related to census, are less rather than to vital statistics. The most of demographic data items gap are considered in vital statistics and significantly in terms of mortality.

Table 1 - Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Iran,1997

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Reference Time ¹
	Estimates of mid-year population	-	-1997 1988
Census	Urban and total population by sex	-	-1997 1988
Cel	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence,	-	-1997 1988
	Population of capital cities and mores of 100 000 and more Inhabitants	-	1994
	Live births and crude live-birth rates, by urban/rural residence	1	-1997 1993
	Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence ³	-	1994
	Live-birth rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence	-	1994
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence		-1996 1992
	Legally Induced abortions		-1996 1988
	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of woman		1997
ics	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence	1	-1997 1993
atist	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age, sex and urban rural residence		1997
Vital Statistics	Maternal deaths and maternal death rates		-1996 1987
Vit	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	1	-1997 1993
	Deaths by age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1991
	Death rates specific for age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1991
	Deaths and death rates by cause	•••	1997
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex	-	-1995 1990
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence	1	-1997 1993
	Marriages by age of bridegroom and by age of bride		1997
	Divorces and crude divorce rates	1	-1997

	1993

^{...} Data not available,

Table 2 shows situation of demographic data by source in the demographic yearbook for Iran in 2007. It is followed the previous unfolding shape. As indicated in this table, the most of demographic data items gap are considered in vital statistics and significantly in terms of mortality, in contrast, marriage items had less data gap.

Table 2- Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Iran, 2007

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	reference Time ¹
	Estimates of mid-year population	-	1998 -2007
sns	Urban and total population by sex	-	1998 -2007
Census	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1998 -2007
	Population of capital cities and cities of 100 000 or more inhabitants	-	1998 -2007
	Live births and crude live birth rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Live-births by age of mother and sex of child and live-birth rates by age of mother		1998 -2007
	Live-births and live-birth rates by age of father	•••	1998 -2007
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence	•••	2003 -2007
	Legally induced abortions		1998 -2007
itics	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of women	•••	1998 -2007
Vital Statistics	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence		2003 -2007
al S	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age and sex	•••	1998 -2007
Vit	Maternal deaths and maternal mortality rates	•••	1997 -2006
	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Deaths and death rates by age and sex	•••	1998 -2007
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex	-	1998 -2007
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Marriages by age of groom and by age of bride		1998 -2007

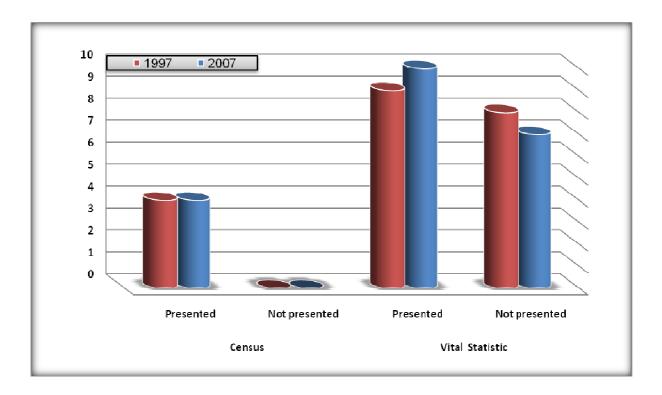
Data not available for at least one or more years,
Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

Divorces and crude divorce rates by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
Divorces and percentage distribution by duration of marriage		1998 -2007
Divorces and percentage distribution by number of dependent children		1998 -2007

Table3- Summary of Demographic Data Situation by Various Items for Iran, 1997& 2007

	19	97		2007			
Cei	Census		Vital Statistic		Census		Statistic
Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented
4	-	10	7	4	-	5	12

Figure 1: Situation of Demographic Data by Various Items for Iran, 1997& 2007



 $[\]dots$ Data not available $^{\rm l}$ Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

Table 4 shows situation of demographic data by source in the demographic yearbook for Turkey in 1997. As indicated in this table, we have not available data for some of the health indices in vital statistics. In census, there is not demographic data gap.

Table4: Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Turkey, 1997

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Reference Time ¹
	Estimates of mid-year population	-	1988 -1997
sns	Urban and total population by sex	-	1988 -1997
Census	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence,	-	1988 -1997
	Population of capital cities and mores of 100 000 and more Inhabitants	-	1994
	Live births and crude live-birth rates, by urban/rural residence	-	1993 -1997
	Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence ³	-	1994
	Live-birth rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence	-	1994
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence		1992 -1996
	Legally Induced abortions		1988 -1996
S	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of woman	•••	1997
stic	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence	-	1993 -1997
Vital Statistics	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age, sex and urban rural residence		1997
S	Maternal deaths and maternal death rates		1987 -1996
Vita	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	-	1993 -1997
	Deaths by age, sex and urban/rural residence		1991
	Death rates specific for age, sex and urban/rural residence		1991
	Deaths and death rates by cause		1997
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex	-	1990 -1995
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence	1	1993 -1997
	Marriages by age of bridegroom and by age of bride	-	1997

Divorces and crude divorce rates	1	1993 -1997
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Table 5 shows situation of demographic data by source in the demographic yearbook for Turkey in 2007. As indicated in this table, we have not available data for some of the health indices in vital statistics. In census, there is not demographic data gap.

Table 5- Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Turkey, 2007

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Reference Time ¹
	Estimates of mid-year population	-	1998 -2007
sns	Urban and total population by sex	-	1998 -2007
Census	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1998 -2007
	Population of capital cities and cities of 100 000 or more inhabitants	-	1998 -2007
	Live births and crude live birth rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Live-births by age of mother and sex of child and live-birth rates by age of mother	•••	1998 -2007
	Live-births and live-birth rates by age of father		1998 -2007
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence		2003 -2007
	Legally induced abortions		1998 -2007
	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of women		1998 -2007
Vital Statistic	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
tat	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age and sex	-	1998 -2007
a S	Maternal deaths and maternal mortality rates		1997 -2006
Vit	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Deaths and death rates by age and sex		1998 -2007
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex ³	-	1998 -2007
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Marriages by age of groom and by age of bride	-	1998 -2007
	Divorces and crude divorce rates by urban/rural residence	-	2003 -2007
	Divorces and percentage distribution by duration of marriage	-	1998 -2007

 $[\]dots$ Data not available, $\bf 1$ Data not available for at least one or more years, $\bf ^1$ Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

dependent children - 1998 -200		Divorces and percentage distribution by number of dependent children	-	1998 -2007
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^{...}Data not available $\ensuremath{^{1}}$ Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

Table 6- Summary of Demographic Data Situation by Various Items for Turkey, 1997 and 2007

1997			2007				
Census		Vital Statistic		Census		Vital 9	Statistic
Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented
4	-	9	8	4	-	10	7

Figure 2: Situation of Demographic Data by Various Items for Turkey, 1997& 2007

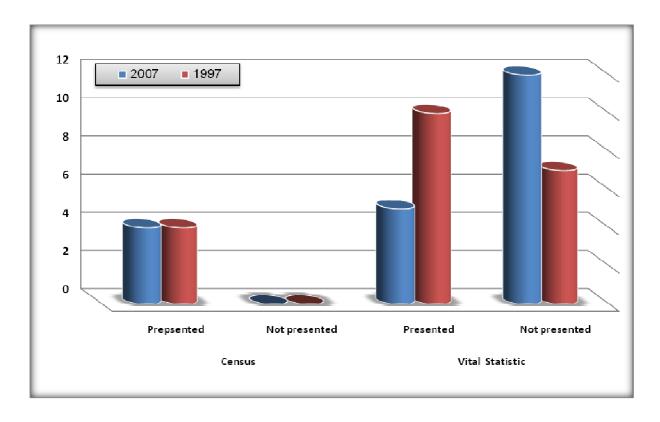


Table7- Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Pakistan,1997

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Reference Time ¹
sns	Estimates of mid-year population	-	1988 -1997
	Urban and total population by sex	-	1988 -1997
Census	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence,	-	1988 -1997
	Population of capital cities and mores of 100 000 and more Inhabitants	-	1994
	Live births and crude live-birth rates, by urban/rural residence	1	1993 -1997
	Live births by age of mother, sex and urban/rural residence ³	-	1994
	Live-birth rates specific for age of mother, by urban/rural residence	•••	1994
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence	•••	1992 -1996
	Legally Induced abortions	•••	1988 -1996
	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of woman		1997
tics	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence	1	1993 -1997
Vital Statistics	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age, sex and urban rural residence	-	1997
S	Maternal deaths and maternal death rates		1987 -1996
/ita	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	1	1993 -1997
	Deaths by age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1991
	Death rates specific for age, sex and urban/rural residence		1991
	Deaths and death rates by cause		1997
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex	-	1990 -1995
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence		1993 -1997
	Marriages by age of bridegroom and by age of bride		1997
	Divorces and crude divorce rates		1993 -1997

^{...} Data not available, 1 Data not available for at least one or more years, 1 Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

Table 8- Situation of Demographic Data by Source in the Demographic Yearbook for Pakistan, 2007

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Reference Time ¹
	Estimates of mid-year population	-	1998 -2007
sns	Urban and total population by sex	-	1998 -2007
Census	Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence	-	1998 -2007
	Population of capital cities and cities of 100 000 or more inhabitants ²	1	1998 -2007
	Live births and crude live birth rates, by urban/rural residence	1	2003 -2007
	Live-births by age of mother and sex of child and live-birth rates by age of mother	-	1998 -2007
	Live-births and live-birth rates by age of father		1998 -2007
	Late fetal deaths and late fetal death ratios, by urban/rural residence		2003 -2007
	Legally induced abortions		1998 -2007
	Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of women		1998 -2007
S)	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates, by urban/rural residence	1	2003 -2007
itisti	Infant deaths and infant mortality rates by age and sex	-	1998 -2007
Sta	Maternal deaths and maternal mortality rates	•••	1997 -2006
Vital Statistics	Deaths and crude death rates, by urban/rural residence	1	2003 -2007
	Deaths and death rates by age and sex	-	1998 -2007
	Expectation of life at specified ages for each sex ³	-	1998 -2007
	Marriages and crude marriage rates, by urban/rural residence		2003 -2007
	Marriages by age of groom and by age of bride		1998 -2007
	Divorces and crude divorce rates by urban/rural residence		2003 -2007
	Divorces and percentage distribution by duration of marriage		1998 -2007
Data not a	Divorces and percentage distribution by number of dependent children		1998 -2007

Table 9 -Summary of Demographic Data Situation by Various Items for Pakistan,

^{...} Data not available, 1 Data not available for at least one or more years, 1 Reference Time: The first time in which is available data.

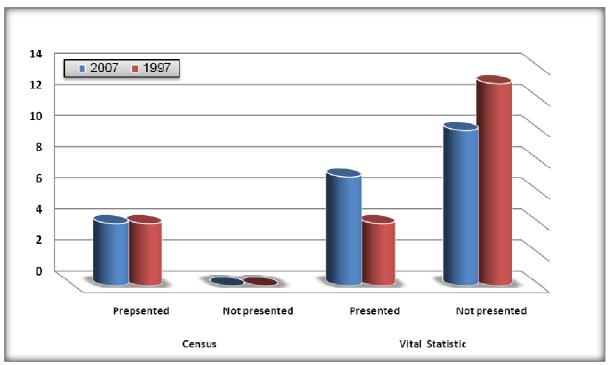
1997 and 2007

1997				2007			
Census		Vital Statistic		Census		Vital Statistic	
Presented	Not		Not		Not		Not
Presented	presented	Presented	presented	Presented	presented	Presented	presented

Table10- Summary of Demographic Data Situation by Various Items for Iran, Turkey and Pakistan countries, 1997 and 2007

Figure 3: Situation of Demographic Data by Various Items for Pakistan, 1997 & 2007

	1997			2007				
Countries	Census		Vital Statistical		Census		Vital Statistic	
	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented	Presented	Not presented
Iran	4	-	10	7	4	-	5	12
Turkey	4	-	9	8	4	-	10	7
Pakistan	4	-	4	13	4	-	7	10



Perspective of ICPD Goals in regarding to data producing

Development plans are normally developed based on the achievement of a set of priority goals, which are measured by changes in the value of well-defined indicators. Analysis of

these indicators also permits the ongoing assessment of the development plans. Many of these indicators are historically well established ones in each country.

The expansion of international cooperation, in particular the presence of international organizations in each country for linking the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the major conferences of the 1990s, has added new dimensions to development planning and as a result, the preparation of indicators that allow for comparison of countries in terms of their attainment of measurable, time-bound objectives.

The indicators recommended by the International Conference on Development and population (ICPD) and MDG are among these indicators.

Tables 11-13 show data situation from the perspective of ICPD Goals for Iran, Turkey and Pakistan countries in 2009.As indicated in these tables, we can see a commensurate and convergence status in all of indicators.

Table 11- Data Situation from the Perspective of ICPD Goals for Iran, 2009

Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Producing Year
o -	Total population (millions)	-	2009

	Dunington duning (milliams)		
	Projected population (millions)	-	2050
	Ave.pop. growth rate (%)	-	2005 -2010
	%Urban	-	2009
	Urban growth rate	1	2005 -2010
	Population/ ha arable &-perm. Crop land	-	2009
	Total fertility rate	1	2009
	% Births with skilled attendants	-	2009
	CNG per capita PPP\$	-	2007
	Expenditures/primary student (% of GDP per capita)	-	2009
	Health expenditures, public (% of GDP)	-	2009
	External population assistance (US\$,000)	-	2009
	Under mortality M/F estimates	-	2005 -2010
	Per capita energy consumption	-	2009
	Access to improved drinking water sources	-	2009
ty	Infant mortality total per 1000 live birth	-	2009
Mortality	Live expectancy M/F	-	2009
Mo	Mortality ratio	-	2009
	Primary enrolment (gross) M/F	-	2009
atior	Proportion reaching grade 5 M/F	-	2009
Education	Secondary enrolment (gross)M/F	-	2009
ш	% Illiterate (> 15 years) M/F	-	2009
tive	Birth per 1000 women ages 15-19	-	2009
Reproductive Healt h	Contraceptive prevalence	-	2009
Repro	HIV prevalence rate (%) ages 15-49	-	2009

Source: UNFPA,2009,

Table12- Data Situation from the Perspective of ICPD Goals for Turkey,2009

Sourc	e	Indicators	Data Gap	Producing Year
0	Ci	Total population (millions)	-	2009

	Projected population (millions)	-	2050
	Ave.pop. growth rate (%)	-	2005 -2010
	%Urban	-	2009
	Urban growth rate	-	2005 -2010
	Population/ ha arable &-perm. Crop land	-	2009
	Total fertility rate	-	2009
	% Births with skilled attendants	-	2009
	CNG per capita PPP\$	-	2007
	Expenditures/primary student (% of GDP per capita)		2009
	Health expenditures, public (% of GDP)	-	2009
	External population assistance (US\$,000)	-	2009
	Under mortality M/F estimates	-	2005 -2010
	Per capita energy consumption	-	2009
	Access to improved drinking water sources	-	2009
ity	Infant mortality total per 1000 live birth	-	2009
Mortality	Live expectancy M/F	-	2009
Mo	Mortality ratio	-	2009
_	Primary enrolment (gross) M/F	-	2009
Education	Proportion reaching grade 5 M/F	-	2009
duca	Secondary enrolment (gross)M/F	-	2009
ŭ	% Illiterate (> 15 years) M/F	-	2009
ive	Birth per 1000 women ages 15-19	-	2009
roduct lealth	Contraceptive prevalence	-	2009
Reproductive Health	HIV prevalence rate (%) ages 15-49		2009

Source: UNFPA, 2009, ...Data not available.

Table13- Data Situation from the Perspective of ICPD Goals for Pakistan,2009

	Source	Indicators	Data Gap	Producing Year
2	o ci	Total population (millions)	-	2009

	Projected population (millions)	-	2050
	Ave.pop. growth rate (%)	-	2005 -2010
	%Urban	-	2009
	Urban growth rate	-	2005 -2010
	Population/ ha arable &-perm. Crop land	-	2009
	Total fertility rate	-	2009
	% Births with skilled attendants	-	2009
	CNG per capita PPP\$	-	2007
	Expenditures/primary student (% of GDP per capita)		2009
	Health expenditures, public (% of GDP)	-	2009
	External population assistance (US\$,000)	-	2009
	Under mortality M/F estimates	-	2005 -2010
	Per capita energy consumption	-	2009
	Access to improved drinking water sources	-	2009
ity	Infant mortality total per 1000 live birth	-	2009
Mortality	Live expectancy M/F	-	2009
Mo	Mortality ratio	-	2009
_	Primary enrolment (gross) M/F	-	2009
Education	Proportion reaching grade 5 M/F	-	2009
duca	Secondary enrolment (gross)M/F	-	2009
ŭ	% Illiterate (> 15 years) M/F	-	2009
ive	Birth per 1000 women ages 15-19	-	2009
Reproductive Health	Contraceptive prevalence	-	2009
Repi	HIV prevalence rate (%) ages 15-49	-	2009

Source: UNFPA, 2009, ...Data not available.

Discussion and Policy Implications

This paper highlighted and identified needs of demographic statistics in the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) major countries which are consisted Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey countries in the international publications. The

results declared that number of demographic data items which related to census, are less rather than to vital statistics. The most of demographic data items gap are considered in vital statistics and significantly in terms of mortality. We have not available data for some of the health indices in vital statistics. In census, there is not demographic data gap.

In spite of all efforts done to depict an inclusive, clear and comparable picture of demographic statistics by national and international community, it seems that we need to improve an agreed format for statistics. For achieving Millennium Development Goals, strengthening national statistical systems is a key factor to monitor demographic statistics at the regional level. Data collection is not sufficient for sustainable statistical programs and national producers involvements are needed to avoid duplication and waste of resources.

Consequently, countries should create firms national strategies based on the countries' demographic requirements of international commitments for their data needs on demographic statistics. It involves identifying material weaknesses and strengths, and evaluating possible solutions that take those qualities into consideration.

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