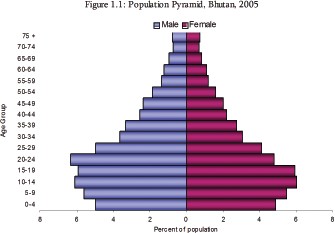
# CHAPTER 1 POPULATION

Population presents statistics on the basic attributes of population such as the size and the growth of population, its geographical distribution, its structure by sex and age etc. The principal source of data on population is the population and housing census, which is basically conducted on a five or ten yearly basis. The Population and Housing Census in Bhutan was first conducted in May 2005. The census provides a full count of the population according to a range of characteristics such as demography, health, education and other social aspects. It is useful not only because they provide a range of current population data but are also used as a benchmark for making population estimates in non-census years and for population projections. Population censuses were undertaken in Bhutan in 1969 and 1980. The population figures for those early years were large because of the large influx of migrants from neighboring countries, particularly labor migrants at the instance of construction coinciding with the large-scale development work on infrastructure expansion. With the development emphasis changing to human resource development the large migrants moved out and in 1996 the total population was found to be around 600,000. The Census conducted in 2005 was based on the international standards and had been enumerated asthe de facto population.



The second major element of population statistics relates to the demographic characteristics of the population. The most common source of information on demography is the vital registration system (which usually covers the registration of births and deaths and sometimes marriages and divorces). In Bhutan, the vital registration system does not currently provide the full coverage of births and deaths and it has been necessary to undertake special sample surveys, (the first one in 1984, and second one in 1994 and 2000) to obtain important demographic information. The statistics presented in this chapter are purely of the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2005. The actual population enumerated as of 30th and 31st May 2005 is 634,982 persons out of which 333,595 persons are male and 301,387 are females. The urban population consists of 196,111 persons while 438,871 are in the rural areas. Based on the population projection derived from PHCB 2005, the population for 2007 was calculated at 658, 888.

The interpretations of Demographic indicators are as follows:

**Crude birth rate:** Number of live births in a year per thousand populations.

**General fertility rate:** Number of live births in a year per thousand women in the childbearing age (15 to 49).

**Total fertility rate:** Average number of children born by women during their reproductive span of life.

**Gross reproductive rate:** Measures the extent to which a cohort of newly born girls will replace their mothers under pre-determined schedules of fertility and mortality.

**Crude death rate:** Number of deaths in a year per thousand populations.

**Infant mortality rate:** Number of deaths during first year of life per thousand live births.

**Maternal mortality ratio:** The annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per thousand live births.

**Rate of natural increase:** the difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate.

**Dependency ratio:** Measures the number of dependents as a percentage of population aged 15 to 64. Child dependency refers to children aged 0 to 14 years, while old age dependency refers to persons aged 65 and over.

**Index of aging:** It is the number of person’s aged 65 and over as a percentage of the number of persons aged 0 to 14.