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ERRORS AT SINGLE AGES IN THE CENSUS DATA OF PAKISTAN, 1972

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INTRODUCTION

If the single year of age data for the population of Pakistan 1972 is plotted on a graph paper, certain highly irregular fluctuations are observed. Even though past shifts in the annual number of births, deaths, migration can produce fluctuations from one single age to another, the figures for adjacent ages should presumably be rather similar. Thus the fluctuations observed immediately suggest faulty reporting. Beside other age errors one major cause of the abnormality in the distribution of population according to the ages is the tendency of enumerators or respondents to report certain ages at the expense of others i.e. age preference, or the preference for the various ages having ages having the same terminal digits. The latter is called digit preference. In this paper an attempt is made to measure the age preference in terms of indexes and to remove the irregular fluctuations from the data in order to obtain the correct figures at individual ages.

INDEXES OF AGE PREFERENCE

Various arithmatical devices have been developed for the measuring heaping on individual ages or terminal digits. Myers has developed a blended method[1] to avoid the bias in indexes due to the fact that numbers ending in "O" would normally be larger than the following numbers ending in "1" to "9" because of the effect of mortality.

1. The Methods and Materials of Demography Vol. I by H.S. Shryock & J.S. Siegel.