

## HISTORY OF INDIAN CENSUS AND ITS FEATURES

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### ABSTRACT

*The Present paper lucidly tries to analyze the robust annals of Indian census and its praxis of transformation from ancient to the present form (especially since 1872 to 2011). The paper provides the proper information on census and its significant features from Vedic period to 2011 on the available evidence (secondary data). It flaunts all the transformational and rich formats of census and its wonderful implementation to obtain the required information, formulated by the census department. The Indian census has not been a mere statistical operation and the data collected is not merely properly scrutinized at various levels but also presented with cross classification of sundry parameters for interpretation and analysis in a fascinating manner. It may be realized from the history of Indian Census that how the modifications have taken place from one census to other depending upon the call of the time, country and also demand of the data users and development of techniques and technology. The Indian census is well documented from all aspects especially the data it flaunts. The sundry problems relating to political, social and cultural reasons also make it challenging. In spite of all these teething troubles, the census in India is being successfully conducted since 1872 and every after ten years since 1881 without any interruption and recognized as most successful census in the world. The 2011 census is going to become the remarkable and extraordinary census because the data obtained from the census is directly linked with the various government policies (especially Direct Benefit Transfers-DBT) through AADHAAR- Aam Admi ka Adhikar. As the use of technology in census 2011, praxis of collecting required data has curbed and checked the forged entry in National Population Register.*

**KEYWORDS:** BIMARU, DEMARU Census, Pre Independence Period, Post-Independence Period.

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### Introduction

The term census originated in early 17th century (denoting a poll tax): from Latin, applied to the registration of citizens and property in ancient Rome, usually for taxation, from *censur* assess. Census signifies the process of officially counting something, especially a country's population, and recording various facts (*Wehmeier, Sally and et al*). Britannica concise Encyclopedia enunciates that census is the enumeration of people, houses, firms, or other important items in a country or region at a particular time. Census is conducted to count people, animals, houses, economic condition, caste, religion, unemployment etc. but here the study is centralized on the annals of people's census only. Census of India 2011 explains, a population Census is the process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, social, cultural and economic data relating to all persons in the country or in a well delimited part of a country, at a particular time in ten years interval.

### History

The first U.S. population census was taken in 1790 to establish a basis for representation in Congress. Censuses were taken in England, France, and Canada in 1801, 1836, and 1871, respectively.

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China was the last major country to report a census, in 1953. Census information is obtained by using a fixed questionnaire covering such topics as place of residence, sex, age, marital status, occupation, citizenship, language, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and education. From the responses demographers derive data on population distribution, household and family composition, internal migration, labour force participation, and other topics (*Britannica concise Encyclopedia*). The father of Demography/Population studies, John Graunt, an English haberdasher made observation upon the bills of mortality and concentrate mainly on census based studies (*Sharma, Rajendra K.*) India is one of the very few countries in the World, holding Census after every ten years (Das Gupta, Samir) since 1881, the present form of first census was organised in 1872. The glimpses of census are viable in Harrapa civilization also. The earliest literature and the first known book 'Rig Veda' reveals that some kind of Population count was maintained during 800-600 BC. During the regime of Mughal king Akbar the Great, the administrative report, Abul Fazl (1595-96) in 'Ain-e- Akbari' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics. In ancient Rome, too, census was conducted for purpose of taxation. The estimates of population size in India during the ancient, medieval and the early modern periods (that is from the beginning to the Christian era to 1871) have been derived by Kingsley Davis from a careful examination of archaeological evidence, relevant literature and historical records left behind by scholars of history (*Bhende, Asha A and Kanitkar, Tara*). The history of Indian Census (Modern Form) can be divided in two parts i.e. Pre Independence era and Post-Independence era.

### Pre Independence Period

Records flaunt that in 1687, during the Governorship of Elihu Yale in Madras Presidency, the King of England desired that a count of the inhabitants of Fort St George be taken. This however was not followed up until 1872. A count was also taken up in 1853 in the North Western Frontier, which was followed by a series of Census like enumerations. However these "were not censuses but simple head counts" and were so evidently untrustworthy that it had long been found utterly impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion" (*Provisional Census of India 2011, Ch-1*). The History of modern form of Census commenced with 1800 when England had begun its Census but the population of reliance was unknown at that time. In its continuation, based on this methodology census was conducted in town of Allahabad in 1824 and in the city of Banaras in the year 1827-28 by James Prinsep. The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in Dacca, now the capital of Bangladesh. In this Census the statistics of Population with sex, age group and also the houses with their amenities were collected. Second Census was conducted in 1836-37 by Fort St. George. In 1849 Government of India ordered Local Government to conduct quinquennial returns of population. Consequently, a system of periodical stock taking of people was inaugurated in Madras which was continued till the imperial census was ordered. These returns were taken during the official years 1851-52, 1856-57, 1861-62 and 1866-67 respectively. The Department of Home, Government of India had wished, under Statistical Dispatch No.2 of July 23, 1856 that a general census of population might be taken in 1861, which was postponed in 1859, due to the first freedom struggle of India. However, on 10th January, 1865 a census by an actual house to house enumeration was undertaken in North western provinces. A similar census was conducted in November, 1866 in central provinces, and in 1867 in Berar also. The Census in Punjab territory was taken in January 1855 and 1868 respectively. The Census of Oudh was conducted in 1869. In the cities of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta census was taken in 1863, 1864 and 1866 respectively. An experimental census of lower provinces of Bengal was organized in 1869, which was completed by H. Beverley. In 1865 the Government of India and Home Government had agreed upon the principal that a general population census would be taken in 1871. The first synchronized census covering the entire country was held in 1881. The previous census was non- synchronous held in different states at different points of time (*Census Quiz 2011*). A systematic and modern population Census, in its present scientific form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in different parts of the country (*Provisional Census of India 2011, Ch-1*). In the year 1865-67 census was undertaken by the actual counting of heads in most of the part of the country, which is called as the Census of 1872, first Indian Census but couldn't recognized as first census. The significance of this census is remarked by many demographers namely, Christophe Guilmoto: "1871 is probably the turning point of the statistical history of India owing to the inception of a century long tradition of decennial censuses which in turn triggered a new development in the monitoring of socio demographic phenomena like famines, epidemiology or the natural increase of population" (*Provisional Census of India 2011, Ch-1*).

The **Census of 1881, known as first Indian Census**, which was undertaken on 17th February, 1881 by W. C. Plowden, Census Commissioner of India was a great step to a modern synchronous census. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly after every ten years. However, a census of

Portuguese colonial dominions in India was also undertaken at the same time as the British Indian Census. British provinces namely, Bengal, North West Provinces, Madras, Bombay, Punjab, Assam, Baruch, Berar, Coorg and Ajmer besides Native states of Rajputana, Central India, and the Nizam's dominions, Mysore, Baroda, Travancore and Cochin were included in the census of 1881. In the Census of 1881, a schedule 'Census Schedule' with 12 questions was canvassed. Deviating from past, a question on sex was introduced and practices of asking the same questions for males and females separately dropped. The set of new questions on marital status, mother tongue, place of birth and infirmities were included.

The **Census of 1891, the second census of India** was conducted from **26th February, 1891**, and followed almost all pattern of 1881 census. The efforts were made for hundred percent coverage of the country along with Upper part of present Burma, Kashmir and Sikkim were also included. The same schedule was canvassed which contains 14 questions. The question on religion, cast, literacy, occupation etc. were further modified. In lieu of religion, information on main religion was obtained and information on sect was also obtained. Questions on caste or race of main religion and sub division of caste or race were also canvassed. The significance of the census was that in place of Mother Tongue, information on Parental Tongue was obtained (*Drop-in-Article*).

The third continuous census was commenced on **1st March, 1901**. In this census Baluchistan, Rajputana, Andaman Nicobar, Burma, Punjab and remote and far- flung domains of Kashmir were included and in respect of other areas, where detailed survey was not possible, population was projected on the basis of houses. The census schedule of 1901 census comprised 16 questions. The focal change was that the provision for house number was made in the Schedule. Other changes were caste of only Hindus and Jains were recorded and in case of other religion name of tribe or race were chronicled. Instead of foreign language, a new question "Know or does not know English" was encompassed. In place of mother/parental tongue, the question was modified to the extent 'Language ordinarily used'.

The **Census of 1911** was begun on 10th March, 1911 in athwart all fourteen British Provinces and Native states. In this census, the whole Empire of India i.e. territories administered by the Government of India and mediatised Native states were covered with the exception of a few sparsely inhabited and un administered tracts on the boundaries of Burma and Assam. The census Schedule canvassed the same number of 16 questions like the previous census of 1901 but their scope was extended. Instead of age, the question was asked "Age Completed last Birthday". Accompanied by the question on religion, sect of Christians was also ascertained. The particulars of district, province or country were asked in respect of Birth Place question. In 1901 a question 'know or does not know English' was asked but in 1911 in its place the question was inquired "Whether Literate in English".

**1921 Census**, the fifth census in its continuous series was commenced on 18th March, 1921. The history of 1921 is very remarkable because in the period of **1911-1921 population declined caused by famine and epidemics. So, the year 1921 is known as the 'Year of Great Divide' (Dhingra)**. The sixth general census of India started on **February 26, 1931**. The domain covered in this census was circa identical as the census of 1921. The 1931 Census also coincided with a civil disobedience movement. The census Schedule of 1931 Census comprises the set of 18 questions instead of 16 questions of 1921 census. The two new questions added were:

- Earner or Dependent and,
- Mother Tongue (which was asked only in 1881)

Moreover, for eliciting information on 2nd language the question 'other language in common use' was retained. Again the sect was appended with religion and age in respect to nearest birth day.

**The Census of 1941** commenced under the adverse conditions of war. Till February 1940, Government was ambivalent of whether to have a census or not. With concerted effort, the enumeration was carried out directly into the slips which were later sorted out to make tables. The idea of one night enumeration was dropped in this census. The major innovation of 1941 census was to use random sample and every 50th slip was marked to list the validity of a sample in census. In lieu of census Schedule, an Individual Slip was canvassed which comprises 22 questions. The formation of questions was modified to the great extent. Following were the new questions of 1941 census (*Drop-in-Article*):

- Number of children born to a married woman and number surviving.
- Her age at birth of first child.
- Do you employ (a) paid assistance (b) member of household, if so how many?
- Are you in search of employment (for unemployed) and how long have been you in search of it?

### **Censuses of Post-Independence Period (Drop-in-Article)**

After 1941 Census India got its independence in 1947. The Bhore Committee constituted for drafting Plans for post war development in the field of health made a complete review of the field of population and suggested that a Registrar General of Vital and Population Statistics at the centre be appointed and at provincial level, a Superintendent may be appointed with a view to improve the quality of population statistics. The Bhore Committee also recommended that "The Population Problem should be the subject of Central study". Accordingly the Census Act came into force in 1948 (Act No.37 of 1948). The censuses of post-independence era were conducted as per the provisions of this Act.

The **first census of Independent India** was conducted in **1951**, which was the seventh census in its continuous series, from 9th to 28th, February 1951. A three day revision round from 1st to 3rd March was undertaken to update the data as on sunrise of 1st March, the reference date. An Individual Slip was canvassed which comprised 13 questions. The particulars like name, relationship, birth place, sex, age, economic status, principal and subsidiary means of livelihood were obtained for each individual. The information on religion, mother tongue, literacy was also obtained. Out of 13 questions, 12 questions with its sub parts were common for all states while 1 question with subparts relating to fertility, unemployment, infirmity, size of family was optional for certain states. In the Census of 1951 the whole Jammu and Kashmir was excluded from Census and its population was projected on the basis of previous census figures (*Drop-in-Article*). The significance of 1951 census is that for the first time, the 1951 census adopted a strict definition of worker—as one gainfully employed or one working for livelihood and excluded unpaid family workers (*Datt & Mahajan*).

Census of **1961 commenced on 10th February** and completed on sunrise of 1st March. The revision round took place for 5 days in place of 3 days of 1951 Census. However, the reference date remained unchanged. Instead of Individual Slip of 1951 Census, following two schedules were canvassed (*Drop-in-Article*):

- Household Schedule for each Household
- Individual Slip for each Individual

The Household Schedule was divided in A, B & C parts which were further divided in sub parts. Information relating to persons engaged in cultivation and Household industry was collected through this schedule. The Individual Slip contains of the set of 13 questions. The Individual Slips of 1951 and 1961 Censuses differ in following ways:

- In 1961, age at last birthday was asked in place of age.
- A question on civil condition asked in 1951 was dropped in 1961.
- The question on birth place was further sub divided in three parts to elicit information on rural /urban status and duration of residence.
- In 1951, information on economic status with dependency and employment status was obtained whereas in 1961 its scope was enlarged and details of employment in four broad categories of workers with nature of industry, class of workers etc. was also obtained.

The **Census of 1971** was 11th census in continuous series and 2nd after independence. The census of 1971 was conducted at different time as compared to previous censuses to avoid clash with mid-term Parliamentary Election. The census of 1971 was conducted between 10th March and 31st March and revision round was in use from 1st to 3rd April. Deviating from past, the reference date was taken as 1st April, 1971. The Census of 1971 was conducted in following two phases (*Drop-in-Article*):

- House listing Operations
- Actual Enumeration

The first phase was conducted in different part of country at different time between June to September, 1970 by canvassing two schedules namely, Houselist and Establishment Schedule. During the second phase an Individual slip was canvassed which contained 17 questions. The following were the new features of 1971 (*Drop-in-Article*).

#### **Individual Slips**

- A question for getting Information on fertility for currently married women was included.
- An additional question "Last Residence" was included to get the information on migration aspect in a better way.
- The scope of economic questions was further enlarged and a new question on secondary work was introduced.

The fourth census of Independent India was conducted from **9th to 28th February, 1981** with a revision round from 1st to 5th March, 1981. The reference date was again reckoned as sunrise of 1st, March which could not be adhered to in 1971. On the pattern of 1971, this census was again conducted in two phases. In the first phase, a House list Schedule was canvassed but the establishment schedule which was canvassed during 1971 was dropped in 1981. Deviating from past census, in 1981 following two schedules were canvassed during 2nd phase:

- Household Schedule
- Individual Slip

The Household schedule consists of two parts. In the first part the particulars of household like religion, SC/ST status, language spoken and also predominant construction materials of wall, roof and floor were collected. The information on amenities like drinking water, electricity, toilet facility available to the Household was also collected in first part of Household schedule. In the second part characteristics of each individual which were identical to Individual slips were collected. Information on first few columns in part II of Household & Individual Slip were recorded in the field simultaneously while in remaining columns of Household schedule the information from Individual slip was transcribed later on. Following changes were incorporated in Individual slip of 1981 Census:

- The slip was divided in two parts I and II. In first part 16 questions were included which were canvassed on Universal basis. The second part contained 6 questions, relating to migration and fertility, which were canvassed on Sample basis.
- In part I two new questions –(a) Attending school/college and (b) If non worker seeking / available for work were included.
- In part II a question on reason for Migration was also included.
- In part II age at marriage was asked from 'ever married women' whereas in 1971 this question was asked from 'currently women' only.

The census of 1981 classified the worker as 'Main workers' and 'Marginal workers'. Main workers are those who have worked in some economic activity over a period of six months or more and marginal workers are those who have not worked for a major part of the year (*Datt & Mahajan*).

**The Census of 1991** was the fifth Census of independent India and conducted as usual from 9th to 28th February, 2001 to present census data as on sunrise of 1st March, 2001, the reference date. The two phases were continued in the same way like previous two censuses. In the first phase a House list was canvassed to collect the information on housing data and also amenities available to the households. The scope of House list was enlarged and for the first time a question regarding type of fuel used for cooking was canvassed. In 1981 the question on availability of toilet facility was canvassed for urban areas only; however in 1991 it was canvassed for rural areas also (*Drop-in-Article*). During 2nd phase following two schedules were canvassed (*Drop-in-Article*):

- Household Schedule
- Individual Slip

The special features of the 1991 Census schedule as compared to 1981 census are as follows:

- The Household Schedule was so designed that the PCA with nine fold industrial category up to village level in rural area and at charge level in urban area and also data relating to religion and mother tongue can be prepared by manual tabulation expeditiously.
- A new question on Ex-service man was included.
- The concept of literacy was changed and children of 7+ age group were considered as literate as compared to 1981 when children up to age group of 4+ were treated as literate.
- In 1981 census the question on seeking/available for work was asked from marginal workers and non-workers whereas in 1991 this question was asked only from Non -workers.
- In 1991 census a question –“Have you ever worked before” was included for those persons who have reported that they are seeking/available for work.

**The Census of India 2001** was the first census of twenty first century and also third census of millennium. As in the past the Census-2001 was also conducted in two phases. During the first phase, the House listing Operations was conducted between April to September, 2000 in which a house list was canvassed. During House listing, information on a large number of new items such as condition of the building, number of independent sleeping rooms for married couples, type of toilets, availability of drainage with further bifurcation of open or close drainage, bathing and cooking facility within the house was collected. Some of the questions like number of living rooms and number of married couples, which were

canvassed during 2nd phase in 1991 through Household schedule, were canvassed during first phase through House list in 2001 census. Besides, information relating to possession of certain assets like cycle, scooter/motor cycle/moped, radio, television, telephone, availing banking facility etc. was also collected.

The second phase 'Population Enumeration' was undertaken between 9th to 28th February with revision round from 1st March to 5th March, 2001. Deviating from past censuses the census movement was 00.00 hours of 1st March, which was otherwise mostly sun rise of 1st March of relevant Census year (except 1971). In certain snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal (Now Uttarakhand) and also J&K the enumeration was taken during 11th to 30th September, 2000 but in certain districts of J&K it was extended from 1st October to 15th November, 2000. In Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh due to flood the enumeration was conducted from 12th to 31st May, 2001. Due to earth quake in Kuchchh district the population enumeration was undertaken during 9th February to 28th February, 2002. In the second phase instead of Household schedule and Individual slip only Household Schedule was canvassed. The questions which were canvassed in Household Schedule and Individual Slips in previous two censuses were put together in one schedule named as Household Schedule. The Household Schedule of 2001 Census designed contains 23 questions which runs into 39 columns printed on both sides of the Schedule. Following were the new features of 2001 Household Schedule (Drop-in-Article, Bose, Ashis):

- Information regarding age at marriage was collected for males also.
- For type of educational institutions being attended by a person vocational, other institute and, literacy centre were added.
- A new question to collect information on total or partial disability was canvassed. In 1981 the question on disability was canvassed in first phase and dropped in 1991.
- Question on seeking and available for work was also canvassed for marginal workers and question on secondary work of main workers was dropped.
- A new question on distance travelled by a person to his/her workplace and also mode of travel was canvassed for persons engaged in non-agriculture activities.
- Sex wise information was collected for the children born alive during last one year.
- Net area of land under cultivation/plantation and net area of irrigated land was also collected for those households who were engaged in cultivation/plantation in Part III of Household Schedule.
- For the first time provision was made in the Household Schedule for taking signature or thumb impression of the respondent. A quantum leap was also made in the technology front in 2001 Census. The schedules for the phases were scanned through high speed scanners and handwritten data from the schedules were converted into digitized form through Intelligent Character Reading (ICR).

The focal finding of the 2001 census based atwart the data analysis hovered around the two new acronym coined by Ashis Bose namely BIMARU and DEMARU. The dominance of BIMARU states (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) continued in population problem of India and the sharp decline in the sex ratio of 0-06 years child population in DEMARU (Daughter- Killer where D stands for Daughters and MARU stands for Killing. And E stands for elimination) states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat (Bose, Ashis).

#### **The Census of India in 2011**

2011 Census is known as Tech Savvy Census and the overall emphasis in quality data collection and quicker data processing are the significant features of this census and some other features: It provides map and graph facilities on the web and CD-ROM. It includes recommended census topics, data and indicators with accompanying metadata. It can be customized to meet specific requirements (data, indicators, metadata, and layout). It allows the dissemination of census data in any language. It generates user-defined tables, maps, graphs and reports. It provides standard profile reports by geographic units and imports data from other software applications such as CPro, Redatum, SAS and SPSS (*Census of India disseminating Census results using web and desktop Censusinfo technology*). Many innovations were made to accomplish this end, including new-fangled design of the Schedules, pre-printing of location codes, transportation of census material by the Department of Posts, associating NGOs in training, three-tier training pedagogy initiated to make sure quality and uniform training to 2.7 million enumerators. Another innovative feature of Census 2011 has been to provide maps to the field enumerators to ensure proper coverage. Massive publicity campaign launched using print and digital media to sensitize the public. Website synchronized with the publicity campaign to serve as hub of information on Census 2011. The President of India released the postage stamp on Census 2011. Census

in School Programme also introduced to sensitize and aware the school students. Massive data dissemination activity launched. Workstations for research on micro-data set up in many universities for research on the huge databases collected during the Census 2011. One of the major projects taken up in Census 2011 is to set up state-of-the-art Census Resource and Training with the following objectives:

- Making available all the Census Reports published since 1865 in digital format for consultation.
- Imparting quality in-house training on census and demography.
- Imparting training on different processes involved in conducting census to other countries as part of South-South collaboration.
- Taking up consultancy projects & research on various census themes (Office of the Registrar General).

The census of 2011 was commenced in two phases as:

**The First Phase:** House listing and Housing Census were conducted between April to June, 2010 in different States and UTs. A Schedule was canvassed during this phase to collect information on Housing and amenities available to the households. For the first time each schedule was assigned a serial number to maintain a proper account of each and every form. The major departure was canvassing a National Population Register at the time of House listing and Housing Census. The NPR of 2011 had become a register of usual residents of the country. It is a comprehensive identity data base, help in providing the benefits and services under the Government programmes to improve planning and help to strength security of the country. The information collected through NPR is now used for providing a Unique Identity Number (UID), the base of AADHAR after a detailed procedure. The House listing and Housing Census of 2011, comprises a set of 34 questions with following modifications/additions as in 2001:

- Question on number of separate bed room for married couple has been dropped.
- A new question on availability of Computer/ Laptop, with or without internet facility was included.
- Mobile phone was added with telephone facility.
- The question on availability of latrine was further divided into two parts- (i) Latrine within the premises (ii) Type of Latrine.
- Regarding source of drinking water the tap water was splitted into tap water from treated source and tap water from untreated source. Apart from this separate codes were given for covered and uncovered well.
- In type of latrine separate code for public latrine was included.
- NPG was included under fuel used for cooking.

**The Second Phase** of Census-2011 was conducted from 9th to 28th February, 2011 with 5 days revisional round from 1st to 5th March, 2011 to obtain the population figures with reference to reference date, i.e., 00.00 hours of 1st March, 2011. During second phase, Household Schedule was canvassed. Following are the main modifications of Household Schedule of 2011 census as compared to 2001 Census:

- Separate code for 'Other' introduced under sex column.
- In place of one code two separate codes was given for divorced and separated.
- Date of birth was recorded in addition to Age.
- In 2001 under SC/ST only name of Caste/Tribe was collected in case of those persons who returned themselves as SC/ST. In 2011 Census a filter question was separately introduced enquiring 'If the person is SC/ST'. If so, then name of the SC/ST is asked.
- The question on disability was further divided in three sub parts. In type of disability separate code for mental retardation, mental illness and multiple disabilities was given. In case of multiple disabilities provision was made for recording maximum 3 types of disability.
- Under question 'Status of attendance in educational institution' separate codes was provided for special school for disabled. For those who are not attending any educational institution, provisions was made for collecting information on those who have either attended any institution before or also for those who have never attended any institution.
- For "Rentier" separate code was given under non workers category.
- Under question 'Travel to Place of work' one way distance from residence to place of work was collected.
- Under questions of migration in 2001 Census, only names of district, state and country were collected but in 2011 Census, provision was made to collect the name of village/ town also.
- In 2001 Census, for households engaged in cultivation some information regarding net area under cultivation/irrigation was collected in Part III but in 2011 Census this information was not collected.

Later on, 2011 census became the unique in its nature when the information was collected on the basis of caste, first time after the Independence of our country. Such caste based census was organised during the British period in 1933. Till now this caste based census is not declared publically in to last but not the least, the census of 2011, tech savvy census is linked to Aadhaar-now the back bone of all Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). Government of India has fixed the ambitious target to bring all subsidies and welfare schemes under the DBT by March 31, 2017. The DBT programme, a major reform initiative to check the leakages of welfare funds, was launched on January 1, 2013 with regard to 24 selected schemes of 17 ministries. At present, benefits under 74 schemes of 17 ministries are being reached to the targeted people through the DBT. Till date, about ₹ 1.2 lakh crores has been disbursed through the DBT platform to nearly 30 crores beneficiaries. Through DBT all cash transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank account (The Morung Express).

### Conclusion

To conclude it can be said that the Indian census has not been a mere statistical operation and the data collected is not merely properly scrutinized at various levels but also presented with cross classification of sundry parameters for interpretation and analysis in a fascinating manner. It may be realized from the history of Indian Census that how the modifications have taken place from one census to other depending upon the call of the time, country and also demand of the data users and development of technology. The censuses give proper information of that period as Kamath based his study on the censuses of India from 1881 to 1911 and draws special attention to infanticide, child marriage and child widows in India (Kamath, M. Subraya). The Indian census is well documented from all aspects especially the data it flaunts. The sundry problems relating to political, social and cultural reasons also make it challenging. In spite of all these difficulties, the census in India is being successfully conducted since 1872 without any interruption and recognized as most successful census in the world. The 2011 census is going to become the remarkable census because the data obtained from the census is directly linked with the various government policies (especially Direct Benefit Transfers-DBT) and AADHAAR- Aam Admi ka Adhikar-(MY IDENTITY, MY RIGHT) to stop the widespread corruption of our country. All the individual bank accounts, Income tax Pan Numbers, Mobile Numbers etc. are linked or are in the praxis of links to Aadhar Number. Thus, the robust data base of the census and wary use of this data will definitely foil and correct the drawbacks and nexus of crafty persons which hinders the development of our country. Recently Supreme Court has given the verdict that Right to privacy must be maintained while linking with Aadhar and no one is allowed to violet.

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