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Demographic Statistics in Egypt^{*}

1. The present is a period of extraordinary activity in the study of population. The number of scholars engaged in the analysis, and interpretation of demographic data is large by any historical standard. The need for such analysis and interpretation is exceeding to fulfil national purposes.

Techniques of analysis and reliability of interpretation depend upon what kind of data are available. Therefore, vigorous efforts have been devoted to assemble more detailed information and to achieve more accuracy. In Egypt, basic demographic data are collected through three main means.

Population censuses, vital registration and sample surveys.

1. Population Censuses

It is well known that the population census is one of the important methods of collecting basic data required for many **national purposes**. The original and perhaps fundamental purpose of the census is to provide the facts essential as a basis for governmental policy and **administration**. Legislative consideration of questions of economic and social development, employment, migration, housing, public health and welfare, and numerous other governmental activities are facilitated if accurate facts about the population and conditions of living are known. Knowledge of census facts, even where not directly contributing to the solution of problems of state policy **form a background for the study and evaluation of such policies**.

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The first population census in Egypt was taken in 1882. After a lapse of 15 years, the second census was taken in 1897 on a more modern basis. From then until 1947, the decennial censuses of population were taken in each year ending in 7. The first census of a new series was taken in 1960.

The Egyptian five year plan of statistical development had considered the performance of a microcensus of population to be taken on a sample basis in the middle of the intra-censal period, 1960 - 1970. This census, was carried out by the CAPMAS in May 1966, and has been considered as a pilot investigation of the methods of planning, organization and administration of the population and housing census; in a way to ensure complete coverage and most accuracy.

The 1970 population and housing census was to be taken as scheduled but it was deemed necessary that it ought to be postponed for 1975.

Through the census years mentioned before, questionnaires have reflected the increasing interest in such factors as participation in labour force, professions, fertility and internal migration which has accompanied the economic and social development. The inclusion of such topics in recent censuses has provided factual data about important characteristics of the population which meet the needs for governments, business, industry, labour, education etc.

All previous censuses were de-facto. The census moment was set out at the midnight preceding the date of the census. Persons who spent the census night travelling or at work were considered among the persons in the place where they arrived on the morning following the census night, provided they had not been enumerated elsewhere. In some censuses persons on boats and trains were enumerated where they had been and allocated to their point of destination. Nomadic tribes were enumerated in such techniques to achieve reliable counts of their total population by sex and no other characteristics. They were assembled in some places where they had been counted.

The determination of boundaries of units and its subdivision into enumeration areas is one of the basic census operations and takes a considerable part of the time and effort invested in the pre-enumeration stage. The prevention of omissions and duplications in the enumeration depends to a very large extent on the proper delimitation of the enumeration areas. In Censuses preceding the 1960 census, the determination of enumeration areas was according to health boundaries. As a matter of fact there were until recently three different boundaries: health, financial and administrative, and this raised many troubles in field work, tabulation and comparability of census returns. In 1960 and 1966 population censuses, enumeration areas were divided according to the administrative boundaries.

For each census the State organized central committees made up of representatives of some different branches of the government. The functions of such committees are of advisory nature. They discuss the contents of the basic

enumeration questionnaire, the determination of the topics for which data are to be collected, the formulation of the precise form of the questions and the instructions for obtaining the responses. Continuous efforts have been made to increase the comparability of population data by introducing the same definitions and procedures whenever feasible.

Censuses included the items of greatest value to the country phrased in a way to elicit data of maximum use. The main items that were included in the questionnaire are:

Geographic items:

- 1- Location at time of censusⁿ and place of usual residence in latest censuses only .

Household information:

- 2- Relation to head of household

Personal characteristics:

- 3- Sex
- 4- Age
- 5- Marital status
- 6- Place of birth (recent censuses)
- 7- Citizenship

Economic characteristics:

- 8- Type of activity
- 9- Occupation
- 10- Industry
- 11- Status (recent censuses)

Educational characteristics:

- 12- Literacy
- 13- Level of education (recent censuses)
- 14- School attendance (for prospective 1976 census)

Fertility data:

- 15- Total live born (censuses beginning with 1947)
- 16- Children still living

More detailed fertility and migration items have been added to the 1966 census and the 1976 prospective census.

Population census returns are used directly to get some measures of fertility. Among these measures is the child woman ratio, however this measure is greatly affected by infant and child mortality rates. Using population census data, several investigators revealed family size in relation to levels of education, occupation, age, duration of marriage and urban - rural residence.

Population figures are used as a base in computing current birth, death, marriage and divorce rates. Also, it has been used in the preparation of 1937, 1947, 1960 and 1966 national life tables and in constructing nuptiality and labour force life tables.

The last three censuses have been used in several analytical studies conducted in the population Studies and Research Centre, (CAPMAS) and other organizations. Among these studies morality forecasts and population projections based on different assumptions. Some of the previous mentioned studies are published in "Population, Researches and Studies".

From the 1960 and 1966 censuses some estimates of internal migration between the different governorates and between urban - rural areas, were derived. Place of birth and place of usual residence were used to have internal migration indices; In the 1966 population census detailed information were collected, among these duration of residence in usual place of residence and occupation in previous place of usual

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residence. These information in combination with other migrant characteristics such as age, sex, and marital status have been used to estimate the factors that influence internal migration. Also through the labour force sample surveys some estimates of internal migration can be derived.

1966 Population Sample Census:

(Reference date 30/31 May 1966)

A complete head - count was taken on a de facto basis. In this complete head - count the number of persons by sex, religion and nationality were recorded household by household. Information about other characteristics of the population were obtained from a sample of households. The sample population was recorded in three categories:

Residents present, residents absent and temporary visitors; thus providing a de facto and de jure enumeration.

The complete enumeration covered the whole country. Concerning sample data, urban and rural areas of all governorates were represented in the sample except desert governorates of which the towns only were represented in the sample.

Sample Design:

(a) Urban Areas:

A single stage systematic sampling was adopted. Five percent of households were selected by enumerators. For simplicity of selection, the random number ten was used by all enumerators. So, households to be selected in the sample were those with serial number 10, 30, 50,.... etc. The questionnaire covered the following items: name, relationship to head of household, sex, age, religion, marital status, number of wives, educational attainment, school attendance, occupation (present and previous), industry, employment status, place of birth, and duration of residence at the present place of residence. Besides, all persons were divided into residents present, residents absent

and temporary visitors. The number of selected households was 116865.

Furthermore, a subsample of 1% household were asked additional questions on fertility (ever married women only) and on employment and earnings. Again, for simplicity of selection, the enumerators selected the households with serial numbers 90, 190,etc.

(b) Rural Areas:

The following system was used to select villages within each governorate. All households in selected villages were interviewed, i.e. sample of entire villages.

- (1) For each governorate, villages were arranged in an ascending order according to size (Population in 1960).
- (2) The villages were stratified into three strata:
small villages, medium size villages and large villages. The first quarter of villages represented the small villages. The fourth quarter represented large villages. The remaining half represented medium size villages.
- (3) Two percent of villages were selected from each stratum. The minimum number of villages to be selected was two for the small villages. This number was 2 - 3 villages for the other two strata depending upon magnitude of variance in each.
- (4) The method of selecting villages within each stratum was systematic sampling with the middle of the first interval as the starting point. The total number of villages was 4029. The number of selected villages was 114. The number of households in these selected villages totaled 104168 households (in 1960 census). For each governorate, the minimum number of persons

in selected villages was 70000 persons (about 4000 households).

A further sub-sample of one fifth of household (households with serial number 5, 10, 15... etc.) in selected villages were asked additional questions on fertility, employment and earnings.

11 Vital Registration

The first registration, system the world knew, was introduced in Egypt, in 1250 B. C., early in the reign of King Rameses 11. Whether at that remote time, the registration system applied equally to all classes of the population would seem doubtful, but where the system did apply it would scarcely have excluded records of births and deaths.

The establishment of compulsory registration of vital events in Egypt during the last two centuries is as follows:

Event	Year
Live birth	1839
Death	1839
Stillbirth	1912
Marriage	1921
Divorce	1921

But inspite of the early beginning of compulsory registration of vital events, completeness and coverage was very low at first. Only 57153 live births were registered in 1901 in big cities. During the last few decades, vigorous efforts have been exerted to push forward with the expansion of the registration area and development of reliable vital records and statistics. First priority was given to live births and deaths then later to foetal deaths, marriage and divorce

Responsibility for the development of the vital statistics system in A.R.E. is part of the functions of the Central Agency For Public Mobilisation and Statistics. To achieve such a goal we need intensifying efforts and co-ordinating activities of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and other specialized agencies dealing with and interested in vital statistics.

Some decree laws have been enacted to give legal backing to the compulsory registration of vital events. The laws which contributed in organizing and developing registration and vital statistics system, were issued in 1912, 1946, 1960 and 1965. These laws designated authorized agencies for registration and the system of notifying, registration and recording vital events. By 1962, responsibility for registration of vital events has been transferred from health bureaus to the civil registration offices of Ministry of Interior.

Coverage:

The vital statistic system has been expanded to include all births, deaths, marriage and divorce occurring in all geographic areas, for all population groups in the national area within the boundaries of the country, in addition to events occurring for natives temporarily abroad. All live-born infants should be registered and counted irrespective of gestational age or whether alive or dead at time of registration, in addition that if they die at any time following birth they should be registered and counted as deaths. However, it seems that most of the deficiency of registration of live births and neonatal deaths comes from delaying of notification and if the child is dead before registration he may not be registered at all, neither as a live birth nor as a deceased. Foetal deaths prior to the sixth completed month of gestation are not registered.

Confidentiality:

Confidentiality of personal information in statistical reports is safeguarded according to the law No. 35 issued in 1960. Art.111 reads "Individual information collected for any census or statistics shall be confidential. Such information is not to be imparted to any person or public, or private organization and shall never be used for any purpose other than statistical". Publishing any individual information is prohibited except if a written permission from those concerned is granted. It is not allowed to use any statistical information as a basis to fix a tax or any other financial charge, or as evidence of a crime, or as a basis for any legal action.

Notification of birth and death events:

All live births, late foetal deaths and deaths have to be notified within a specified period from occurrence of event " 8 days for live births and 24 hours for late foetal death and deaths " to the health bureau or chief of the village "Omda". Special forms are used. All information needed for health, administrative, and statistical purposes have to be recorded on the forms. Before 1965 statistical informations were not included in the notification forms. The head of the family (father or mother), the guardian or any adult member of the family is responsible for filling an official notification form. The Omda or the health bureau clerk has to go over notification forms carefully to detect errors and to assure completeness of all forms.

Each "birth or death" event is recorded in health registers which include only information needed for health purposes such as vaccination of new born children against infectious diseases.

Authorized attendants of deliveries such as physicians, and midwives, have to fill special forms for each birth they attend and pass it within three days to the health bureau. These forms are matched with the notification forms.

Standardized forms are used for notification all over the country, "in urban and rural areas", to assure uniformity. Instructions and definitions are printed on each form to give the informant better understanding and enable him to record more reliable data. Birth notification forms contain fertility characteristics which were not included in the previous forms. It is the responsibility of physicians in health bureaus to certify cause of death. Health bureaus are of two types:

- 1- Health bureaus in urban areas of which there are about three hundreds in cities and towns.
- 2- Rural health centers and units distributed in rural areas. Each of the health centers serves inhabitants of two or three villages while the health unit serves one village only. It is believed that the expansion of establishing health centers and units has improved the accuracy of registration in rural areas and this may be among the reasons for low decline in birth and infant mortality rates in rural areas. The Ministry of Health is progressing on completing the rural health unit project which is envisaged to include 3000 rural health units and centers.

Statistical Reports:

Under the supervision of physicians, clerks in health bureaus are responsible for filling statistical reports for births and deaths that have been notified to them within each of the international weeks.

Two forms are used, one for live-births, the other for deaths and still births. All events that has been registered in health registers are reported on the forms. Statistical reports are filled according to information on notification forms and submitted within three days from the end of the international week, to selected health bureaus. For each Kism or district one health bureau has been selected by the Ministry of Health to organize the flow of statistical reports and documents from all health bureaus to the civil registration office in the region. Selected health bureaus in addition to their main duties have to receive from other H.B. and check back the statistical reports with notification forms. All statistical reports and notification forms have to be dispatched to the district civil registration office within three days of their receipt from health units and other health bureaus in the district.

By 1962, responsibility for registration of vital events for civil affairs has been transferred from health bureaus to the civil registration offices of the Ministry of Interior.

The registrar in the civil registration office makes a final revision of the notification forms before they are copied in the record (late foetal deaths are not registered in the civil registration offices). Finally the registrar inserts the serial number of civil registration in the statistical report and send them within three days of their receipt to the Statistical Division of the Department of Civil Registration in Cairo, where a number of technical staff of the Central Administration of Statistics are entrusted to check the reports and see if they are complete and ready for data processing.

More verification and processing is done by the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics.

Registration completeness:

There is very little quantitative information available on registration completeness. There have been no national tests of completeness of registration for vital events. However, there have been several local studies from which estimates of under-registration have been made.

There is some evidence that under registration is higher in rural than urban areas. This may be due to high proportion of illiterate villagers and to the existing of large distances between some villages and the health bureaus. It may be easy for some families, particularly in Upper Egypt, to burry deasead children without getting permission from health bureaus.

The registration acts issued in 1960 and 1965 and administrative improvement that took place in the registration system since 1962 may have had by an artifact, an influence in improving birth registration and registration of infant deaths. The reliability of the entries of live birth and death notifications has been greatly improved. With the expansion of health bureaus and increasing consciousness of people to the importance of birth and death certificates, reporting has become easier and improved. Health bureaus which amounted 1168 in 1964 has been increased to 2286 by the end of 1972.

The existence of under-registration in rural areas is evidenced by the extremely low neonatal mortality rates in comparison with those for urban areas. Although other factors may be influential, it is most likely that this unusual phenomenon is an indication of higher under-registration of neonatal deaths, in rural than urban.

The gap between neonatal mortality rates in urban and rural is narrowing. The difference between urban and rural rates which was in 1950 27.5 % for males and 22.6 % for females declined to 15.4 % and 12.7 % respectively. This can be attributed to the increase in accuracy of registration in rural areas.

111 Sample Enquiries

Although complete enumeration of population in the population censuses and of vital events in vital statistics, remained the longterm objective, it was felt the need for sampling enquiries as a short term measure. The application of sampling methods to the collection of demographic statistics have been introduced in Egypt few decades ago. It started with labour force enquiries then has been expanded to include employment and wages in governorates, family budget, sickness, fertility, vital statistics and internal migration.

Labour force sample surveys:

The main objectives of the surveys are to provide adequate information on the size of the labour force and of total potential manpower, and their distribution according to various characteristics.

The survey is carried out on a nation wide basis. It is planned in such a way as to provide full geographical coverage of the Egyptian regions. Several independent rounds were conducted, the first in November 1957 and the last in May 1973. Some modifications took place in the frame and the design of the sample.

For each round the sample includes both urban and rural population, with the exception of nomads in desert areas, the ultimate sampling unit being the household. The definition

adopted for the term "household" in this survey excludes, all institutional population i.e. prisoners, hospital residents etc. Hotel residents were also excluded because of their transient nature. No information on the armed forces was collected in the survey.

For the first 13 rounds, the sample was drawn from a frame derived from the preliminary information recorded by the enumerators at the preparatory stage of the population census which was to have been held in March 1957 (this census was postponed to 1960). The frame was a simple list of households, (their detailed addresses, numbers of each household). The rounds were conducted at 1-4 month intervals. After data became available from the 1960 census of population, it had been used as a frame for the sample till May 1964. The rounds ceased for a while, as a long time had elapsed since the 1960 census.

In 1966 detailed data about labour force was collected within the frame of the population sample census. A sub-sample survey was initiated in May 1966. Ever since, rounds are conducted annually, the last of which was in May 1973.

Family budget sample surveys:

Two sample surveys were conducted. The first in 1958 - 1959 and the second in 1964/1965. It is planned to have the third in 1973.

The 1958-1959, Family Budget Sample Survey:

A nation - wide survey was carried out in 1958 on a sample basis in order to study the budgets of a representative sample of households. The inquiry was intended to serve the following two purposes:

- 1- To provide sets of weights, based on consumption patterns, for the construction of cost of living index numbers, for

each of the rural population and the urban population separately.

2- To provide measurements for income elasticity of expenditure on the principle items of domestic consumption.

Before this extensive operation could be launched, a pilot survey was conducted in 1955 in order to provide answers to such important questions as the characteristics of the investigating staff, the length of the reference period, the response rate, schedules, instructions and budget. The pilot survey was carried out in three villages deliberately chosen near Cairo in order to eliminate travel expenses and to make possible an effective supervision system for the field work.

The comprehensive survey was planned on a sampling basis in such a way as to provide a full geographical coverage of the Egyptian Region. Both urban and rural areas were represented in the sample and only the inhabitants of desert areas were excluded. The enumeration unit was the household. Institutional population were excluded.

The full list of households in each single administrative unit (village, city, town), as prepared for enumeration during the 1957 uncompleted population census, constructed the sampling frame. The data were collected from the sample of households in monthly visits through the interview method during the first seven days of the survey months. The investigation was spread over a period of twelve consecutive months, November 1958 - October 1959, in order to eliminate seasonal variation and to take into consideration the month to-month fluctuations in expenditure on goods and services entering into consumption habits of various population groups. The twelve monthly visits were made to the same households.

The schedule was designed in such a way as to provide a full coverage of the items of consumption, taking into consideration the classification of consumer expenditure as recommended by the international organizations with slight modifications needed for adjustment to local conditions. The classification included:

- (A) Consumer goods
- (B) Durable consumer goods
- (C) Expenditure on services and social welfare
- (D) Expenditure on other items of consumption.

A total of 3090 households were selected from the rural areas on a random basis to represent the rural in non urban governorates (provinces). A three - stage sampling system was adopted, the first stage being the district (Markaz), the second the village and the third the household. Half the districts of each province were first selected at random. The villages belonging to the selected districts were stratified according to size as measured by total number of households into small villages with less than one thousand households, and large villages with 1000 and over.

A unified sample fraction was adopted for the rural areas in all the provinces. The equivalent of one per thousand of the rural households in each province was divided between the two groups of large and small villages belonging to the selected districts in proportion to total number of households in each group. One fortieth of the villages was independently selected on a random basis with equal probability from each one of the two strata; and wherever the number of large villages belonging to the sample districts of a province was below 40, one large village was selected at random for representation.

The sample size allotted to each stratum was then spread over the sample villages proportionate to size of the village. Finally the requisite number of sample households were selected at random from the household frame list. In all, 1629 households were selected at random from the 16 large sample villages and 1461 from the 38 small villages.

Urban areas were divided into two parts. The governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia and Suez formed one part, for which a single stage sampling system was adopted. From each one of the precincts of each governorate, a number of households were directly selected in proportion to size of the unit. The sampling fraction was two per thousand. A total of 2067 households were sampled from these urban governorates.

The administrative units forming the other part of urban Egypt are capitals of provinces and districts. These towns were broken down into two strata. Capital of provinces and large towns in both Lower and Upper Egypt formed one of the strata. A number of households were selected systematically from each unit according to size, the sampling fraction being two per thousand households. The other stratum was formed of the remaining capitals of districts. A two - stage system was adopted. Half the towns were selected at random from each province. The sampling fraction was two per thousand of the province, and the equivalent portions of households were selected from the sample towns according to size. In all 577 households were selected from capitals of provinces and large towns, and 639 households from small towns.

The 1964/65 Family Budget Sample Survey:

The survey was designed to reveal the change in family living conditions and in the distribution of income as a result of the promulgation of socialist legislations and regulations. The results of the survey are meant to satisfy a basic requirement for the appraisal of income redistributive policies as well as projection of consumption. All governorates of the Republic except desert governorates were covered in the survey. The sample design is approximately similar to the 1958/ 1959 sample survey with slight modifications.

Vital Rates Sample Surveys:

A Vital rates sample survey was conducted in rural areas of Lower Egypt in 1965/1966. It is planned to have another one on national basis in 1974 - 1975.

The Vital Rates Sample Survey in Rural Areas of Lower Egypt:

The aim of this survey is to obtain, on a sample basis, estimates for the vital rates for rural population in Lower Egypt. It also measures migration from rural to urban and the reverse and provides some of the basic information to those interested in demographic studies who wish to conduct population researches needed for planning.

The Cairo Demographic Centre and the National Centre for Health Statistics in Washington U.S.A. made an agreement according to which the N.C.H.S. would finance the project and the C.D.C. would - conduct this research project in order to estimate the true vital rates in rural areas of Lower Egypt by means of continuous observation over a period of one year.

It was later agreed that the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics would carry out all the field operations. In accordance with this agreement, a joint technical committee was formed between the CAPMAS and CDC, in order to design the different stages of the work and the questionnaires and records to be used.

The Sample Design:

The villages in Lower Egypt which numbered 2358 in 1960 were classified into three strata according to size, assuming that:

- (a) No significant differences in the vital rates existed between the eight governorates of lower Egypt.
- (b) Vital rates are different for villages of different size (small, medium and large)
- (c) Considering the village as a sampling unit, to be covered completely during the research.

A frequency distribution was prepared for the villages according to their size, and the two quartiles of their distribution were taken as limits between the strata. These were approximately 2000 and 5000 persons.

It was agreed that the sampling fraction would be 1% of the total population and also of each stratum as far as possible. To implement this, the median size population in each stratum was calculated and found to be 1215, 3200 and 6930 persons for the small, medium and large strata respectively.

The number of villages in each stratum was calculated. The villages in each stratum were listed alphabetically, and the sampled villages were chosen systematically with a random start. Twenty five villages were chosen. Three of them were

to be left out and substituted for by three others because some local difficulties made it impossible to carry on the work satisfactorily.

Three population censuses were conducted for the villages of the sample. The first one was carried on 30 November 1965, the second on 31 May 1966 and the last on 30 November 1966.

Registration of the vital events started on the date of the first census. The visits to the households in the sample villages were arranged to be made periodically in order to record and register the events as and when they took place. Six different forms were used for reporting vital events, one for each of:

Births, deaths, marriage, divorce, migration from the village and migration to the village. Monthly reports on previous mentioned forms were sent from all interviewers through Bureaus of Statistics, to the research project administration.

The vital Rates Sample Survey Project: (1974-1975)

It is intended to conduct the field work for this study by CAPMAS during 1974 and 1975. Funds required for the project shall be received from UNFPA according to the agreement on population and family planning.

On a sample basis, information about births and deaths that occur in urban and rural areas will be obtained for all governorates. An enumerator, living in or near the sampling area, is expected to visit all households in his sampling region every three months and record birth and death events.

These records are then compared with birth and death events registered in health bureaus and civil registration offices. An attempt will be made to discover reasons for any differences that may have occurred by paying another visit to the household and discrepancies between the results of registration and the survey shall be verified in the field. At the start of the survey the CAPMAS will make a complete enumeration of all members of each household in the units.

This direct method of evaluating the accuracy of birth and death registers depends on the one-to-one matching of vital events from two independent sources. The objective of the direct method of assessment of omissions is not only to detect under-registration but also identify the cases of birth and death which failed to get registered and to obtain a verifiable measure of their number and characteristics. Information about the factors associated with under registration will be studied carefully.

Thus strictly speaking, the objectives of the survey can be said as follows:

- (a) Estimation of under registration of birth and death events.
- (b) Measurements of content errors in the notifications of births and deaths, in the civil registration system or in the survey reports.
- (c) Preparation of new estimates of fertility and mortality.
- (d) Measurement of internal migration.

The complete sample design has not been finished however it is planned to have an area stratified sample. For each governorate the strata are as follows:

- (a) Urban,
- (b) Large villages with health bureaus,
- (c) Small villages with health bureaus,
- (d) Villages without health bureaus.

Fertility Sample Surveys:

Several fertility sample surveys have been conducted in Egypt during the last two decades. Among these:

- 1- Attitudes and practice of family planning in Sandion Village, Qualiobia Governorate, Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 2- The human fertility sample survey, Cairo governorate, 1965/1966, The Egyptian Association for population Studies.
- 3- Fertility studies, Rural lower Egypt, Dec. 1965.

The last sample survey was carried by the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics in collaboration with Cairo Demographic Centre. A committee, in which the two organisations were represented, was responsible for the questionnaire and sample design. The twenty five villages that have been selected for the "Vital Rates Sample Survey in Lower Egypt" were the field of investigation of the fertility study. All ever married females, in the sampled villages, were asked about :

- Data of marriage "date of consumation of marriage"
- Husband's educational status
- Husband's occupation
- Age at marriage
- Educational status
- Occupation
- Number of pregnancies
- Number of Births
- Number of late foetal deaths
- Number of abortions

Date of termination of marriage (for divorces and widowed).

Duration of marriage.

Knowledge and practice of family planning.

For those who got married more than once, information were obtained for each marriage and each husband.

The National fertility Sample Survey Project:

The main objectives are as follows:

- 1- To investigate differential fertility by socio-economic variables.
- 2- To set forth objectively and scientifically what married couples know, believe and do with regard to family planning.
- 3- To evaluate the effect of family planning program that has been carried out since 1966.
- 4- To provide profitable information that can help and guide programmatic decisions.

This project is similar to "the Vital Rates Sample Survey Project" in the sense that it will be conducted on sample basis by the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics with a fund from UNFPA. Field operations will start after completion of the household head count necessary for the vital rates sample survey project. The sampled area will be the same for the two projects, however, secondary sample units, selected from households and ever married females, deem to be necessary. The sample will be designed to give accurate estimates for each of the five main regions: Urban governorates, Urban Egypt, Urban Lower Egypt, Rural Upper Egypt and Rural Lower Egypt.