

CHAPTER 3

Sex Composition, Age Distribution and Marital Status of the Population

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CHAPTER 3

Sex Composition, Age Distribution and Marital Status of the Population

3.1 Sex Composition

Sex composition of a population which is one of the basic demographic characteristics is of vital importance for demographic analysis. Disaggregated information by sex has been produced for both the 1998 and 2008 censuses of Cambodia. The primary information made available is the number of males and females in the population.

Changes in sex composition mostly reflect the changes in the socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society. The sex ratio defined as the number of males per 100 females in the population is an important social indicator to measure the degree of equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

The overall sex ratio or the sex ratio of the total population of Cambodia according to the 2008 census is 94.7. In other words there are more females than males in the Cambodian population.

The sex ratios of some selected developed and developing countries according to the latest available year are given in Table 3.1. In most of the countries sex ratio ranges from 95 to 105. The overall sex ratio falling outside this range is considered to be an extreme case which may be the result of some unusual phenomenon like high mortality as a result of war or any other extraneous reason or excessive immigration.

Table 3.1 Sex Ratios of a few select Countries

Country	Year	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
Cambodia	2008	6,516,054	6,879,628	94.7
Thailand	2002*	31,623,509	31,858,778	99.3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2005	2,800,551	2,821,431	99.3
Vietnam	2005*	40,846,200	42,260,100	96.7
Japan	2005	62,340,864	65,415,951	95.3
Bangladesh	2005*	71,000,000	67,600,000	105.0
Pakistan	2005*	79,745,000	73,710,000	108.2
India	2004*	560,895,000	524,705,000	106.9
France	2005*	29,638,708	31,357,203	94.5
Philippines	2003*	40,820,706	40,260,751	101.4

Note: UN Demographic Year Book, 2005 is the source of data for all countries except Cambodia. For Cambodia the source is the 2008 Census; (*) Estimates

The trend in the sex ratio in Cambodia is shown in Table 3.2

Table 3.2 Sex Ratio in Cambodia over the years

Source of information	Sex Ratio
1962 Census	99.9
1980 General Demographic survey	86.1
1993-1994 Socio Economic survey of Cambodia	91.4
1996 Demographic Survey	91.7
1998 Census	93.0
2004 Cambodia Inter-censal population survey	93.5
2008 Census	94.7

At the time of the 1962 Census males and females in the population of Cambodia almost balanced each other. Subsequently the sex ratio tumbled recording only 86 in the early 1980s owing to heavy mortality among men during the Khmer Rouge years. However it has been showing gradual improvement since that time, and has reached 94.7 in 2008.

Contrary to general belief, males and females in a typical population do not exactly balance each other. While the past trends in fertility, mortality and migration determine the sex-age structure of any population, there are four main factors whose cumulative effect results in the sex ratio. These factors are: (1) sex ratio at birth or the sex ratio of new-born babies (2) differential mortality of males and females (3) the sex ratio of the net-migrants (4) sex differential in population enumeration. In the case of Cambodia one may rule out the possibility of the last factor as there was no sex bias in enumeration as revealed by supervision and post-enumeration evaluation. In the male and female births there is no equality in number in general. The number of male births is always slightly higher. A study of sex ratios of registered births for a large number of countries over time has revealed that the sex ratio of births is around 105 meaning that 105 male babies are born per 100 female babies. It varies within a range of 102 to 107 from country to country. Cambodian sex ratio at birth may fall within the range. The war and genocide years spanning three decades have witnessed unusual mortality conditions, especially huge male mortality giving rise to differential mortality between males and females.

In Cambodia the volume of international migration is not so high as to have any marked impact on the sex structure of the population. Internal migration is sex selective, as for example a large number of women from neighbouring provinces had moved into Phnom Penh to work in garment factories. Men working in farms in rural areas migrate to towns during lean seasons in search of temporary jobs like general labourers. Hence the current sex ratio varies at province, district and city levels mainly due to this factor.

3.2 Urban-Rural Differentials in Sex Ratio

Table 3.3 shows the sex ratio and percentage of females in the population for Total, Urban and Rural areas of Cambodia both in 1998 and 2008. In 1998 the sex ratio of urban areas was higher than the sex ratio of rural areas. The position, however, has reversed in 2008. This is mainly due to very low sex ratios in the urban parts of Phnom Penh (88.8) and Kandal (89.6) in 2008. An interesting observation is that the sex ratio of urban Cambodia as a whole increases if it is calculated excluding the urban parts of Phnom Penh and Kandal provinces.

In other words urban Phnom Penh and Kandal with higher number of females, depress the sex ratio of urban Cambodia as a whole. The possible reasons for the higher number of females in these areas in the de facto count are:

- (i) Large scale migration of young women workers especially during 2003-2008 into Phnom Penh, Ta Khmau etc.
- (ii) Sizeable out migration of male labour from these areas.

Table 3.3 Sex Ratio by Urban-Rural Residence, Cambodia, 1998 and 2008

Total/ Urban/ Rural	Sex Ratio in		Percentage of Female Population in	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	1998	2008	1998	2008
Total	93.00	94.72	51.81	51.36
Urban	94.93	92.43	51.30	51.97
Rural	92.57	95.28	51.93	51.21

The age pattern of the sex ratio is analyzed later in this chapter.

3.3 Age Structure

The United Nations has defined age of a person recorded in a population census as “the interval of time between the date of birth and date of the census, expressed in completed solar years”. It is also stipulated that information on age may be secured either by obtaining the date (year, month and day) of birth or by asking directly for age at the person’s last birthday.

In the 2008 Census of Cambodia and in the previous Census, these instructions were followed. Information on age in completed years as on last birthday was collected from persons interviewed. Khmer calendar was used by enumerators in many cases to elicit completed age from respondents who did not know their age. The enumerators were also provided with a list of historical events of national and local significance to be used in probing questions to determine the age of a person who did not know his/her age. However, one advantage at the present census was most of the households had the household book which had the date of birth of each member of the household. However, the enumerator was instructed to get the given date of birth in the book confirmed by the respondent and in the case of any difference record the age obtained after probing questions.

Figure 3.1 Age Pyramid of Cambodia, 1998

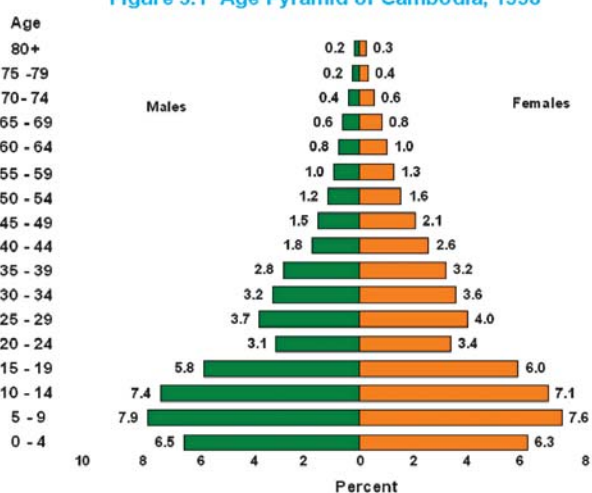
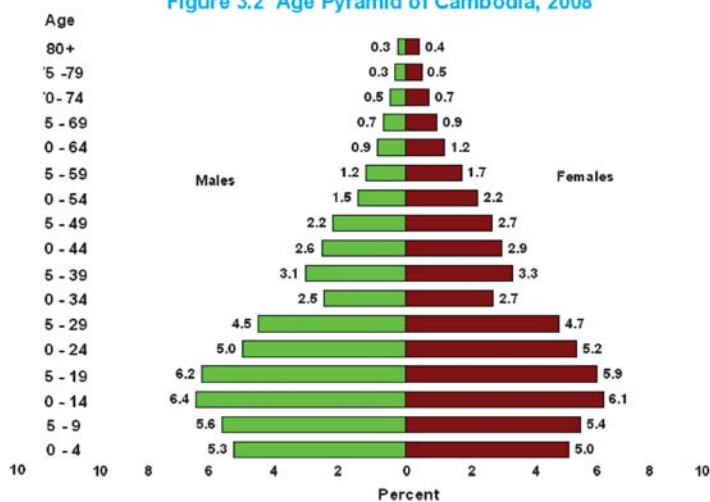


Figure 3.2 Age Pyramid of Cambodia, 2008



As the direct question on age was likely to yield less accurate responses for a number of reasons it is customary to evaluate age data especially in developing countries like Cambodia where the literacy level is not high. The age data collected in the census was tested for digit preference and age heaping in terminal digits. The Whipple’s and Myers’ indices (See Glossary) calculated for the 2008 age distributions are 109.87 and 3.90 respectively. Theoretically Whipple’s index varies between 100, denoting no preference for “0” or “5” and 500 indicating that only ages “0” and “5” were reported. Whipple’s index of 109.87 for Cambodia shows that there was almost no preference for “0” or “5” in the census and that the data are fairly accurate in this regard.

The theoretical range of Myers' index is 0, representing no heaping, and 90 which would be the result if all ages were reported at a single digit. Myers' index of 3.90 for Cambodia shows that age heaping was within reasonable limits. The Myers' index calculated for the 1998 census age data of Cambodia was 9.7. Hence the present index of 3.90 indicates improvement in age data collection from the point of view of age heaping.

The UN age-sex accuracy index for Cambodia 2008 is calculated as 30.37. The UN considered the index of 20 or less as indicating accurate age-sex data. The method however does not take into account decline in the sex ratio with increasing age and real irregularities in age distribution due to migration, war etc as well as normal fluctuations in births and deaths. Since all these factors affect the age-sex data of Cambodia the index seems to exceed 20.

In summary, age returns of the 2008 Census may be considered fairly reliable despite some irregularities. However further evaluation of the age data to determine its levels of accuracy will be carried out in the analytical report.

The age structure of a population is determined by the same three factors which affect the growth rate of any population, namely fertility, mortality and migration. The two simple measures to study the age structure of the population are percent distribution of the population in different age groups and the age-sex histograms known as the age-sex pyramids. Table 3.4 gives the percentage distribution of population of Cambodia for both sexes and each sex by single year of age and by five-year age groups. Figures 3.1 and 3.2 graphically depict the age-sex composition of the Cambodia population in 1998 and 2008 in the form of age pyramid.

The proportion of children in the age group 0-4 is less than that in the age group 5-9. This could have been due to recent decline in fertility and under-reporting of infants and young children or an exaggeration of their ages or what might not be probable, an increase in infant and child mortality. The age group 10-14 represents the largest cohort (12.5 percent) reported at the 2008 census (Figure 3.2). This is closely followed by the cohort of ages 15-19 indicating comparatively high fertility level in the early 1990s following a baby boom reported in the early 1980s.

Above the age of 10 the pyramid shows the usual pattern of gradually decreasing numbers with increasing age. There is, however, a conspicuous exception in the age group 30-34 which has shown a steep decline. This may be attributed to the combined effect of low fertility and high mortality of those born during the Khmer Rouge period (1976-79). The early 1970s saw escalating civil war and in the late 70s during the Khmer Rouge period a large number of killings took place. The sex and age structure beyond age 35 as revealed by the age pyramid reflects the high levels of mortality especially among men during these years of turmoil and internal strife.

A comparison of the age pyramids for 1998 and 2008 (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) show a fairly consistent pattern in the age distribution. A lower proportion of children in the age group 0-4 than that in the age group 5-9 is a characteristic feature of the age distribution in many of the developing countries in Asia, and Cambodia seems to be no exception. Corresponding to the age group 5-9 in 1998, the age group 10-14 is the largest cohort in 2008 (i.e. 10 years later). A decline in the proportion of population in the age group 20-24 in 1998 is reflected in a decline in the proportion of the age group 30-34 in 2008.

The proportion of children (under 15 years of age) has declined from 42.8 in 1998 to 33.7 in 2008 (Table 3.5) which is indicative of declining fertility in the last decade. The age groups 55-64 and over 65 years of age have shown increasing trends thanks to a steady decline in adult mortality. The median age of the Cambodian population works out to 20.96 in 2008 which is about four years more than what it was in 1998 (16.82). The aged-child ratio or the ratio of the number of elderly persons (65+) to the number of children (0-14) expressed as a percentage is calculated as 12.7 for 2008. All these suggest that the Cambodian population which may be described as "young" appears to be moving towards the category of "intermediate age" and ultimately perhaps to the category of "Aging population".

Table 3.4 Percent distribution of Population by Single Years of Age, Five-Year Age Group Sex and Urban-Rural Residence, Cambodia 2008

Age Group	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Number	13,395,682	6,516,054	6,879,628	2,614,027	1,255,570	1,358,457	10,781,655	5,260,484	5,521,171
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
0 - 4	10.25	10.79	9.73	7.90	8.44	7.41	10.82	11.35	10.30
0	2.09	2.20	1.99	1.67	1.79	1.56	2.19	2.30	2.10
1	1.93	2.06	1.82	1.46	1.57	1.36	2.05	2.17	1.93
2	2.00	2.09	1.91	1.60	1.70	1.51	2.09	2.18	2.01
3	2.13	2.24	2.02	1.63	1.74	1.52	2.25	2.35	2.15
4	2.10	2.21	2.00	1.54	1.63	1.46	2.23	2.34	2.13
5-9	10.98	11.55	10.44	7.98	8.50	7.49	11.71	12.27	11.17
5	2.19	2.29	2.09	1.58	1.68	1.48	2.34	2.44	2.24
6	2.20	2.32	2.09	1.57	1.66	1.48	2.35	2.48	2.24
7	2.25	2.36	2.14	1.65	1.76	1.54	2.39	2.50	2.28
8	2.36	2.48	2.24	1.80	1.92	1.69	2.49	2.61	2.38
9	1.99	2.10	1.88	1.38	1.47	1.30	2.13	2.25	2.03
10-14	12.47	13.19	11.79	9.54	10.12	8.99	13.18	13.92	12.48
10	2.44	2.62	2.28	1.73	1.87	1.59	2.62	2.80	2.44
11	2.09	2.22	1.97	1.56	1.68	1.45	2.22	2.35	2.10
12	2.65	2.80	2.50	1.98	2.12	1.85	2.81	2.96	2.66
13	2.66	2.84	2.48	2.09	2.22	1.98	2.79	2.98	2.61
14	2.63	2.71	2.56	2.17	2.23	2.12	2.74	2.83	2.67
15 - 19	12.09	12.81	11.41	13.10	12.85	13.33	11.84	12.80	10.94
15	2.59	2.85	2.35	2.29	2.41	2.17	2.66	2.95	2.39
16	2.39	2.54	2.24	2.35	2.35	2.36	2.40	2.59	2.21
17	2.29	2.45	2.14	2.48	2.47	2.50	2.25	2.45	2.05
18	2.77	2.85	2.70	3.39	3.18	3.59	2.62	2.77	2.49
19	2.04	2.12	1.97	2.58	2.45	2.70	1.91	2.04	1.79
20 - 24	10.22	10.27	10.17	14.18	13.84	14.49	9.26	9.42	9.11
20	2.32	2.34	2.30	3.21	3.05	3.35	2.10	2.17	2.04
21	1.98	2.01	1.94	2.73	2.66	2.79	1.79	1.86	1.73
22	2.05	2.06	2.04	2.89	2.84	2.94	1.84	1.87	1.82
23	1.98	1.98	1.97	2.71	2.69	2.73	1.80	1.81	1.78
24	1.91	1.89	1.92	2.64	2.60	2.68	1.73	1.72	1.74
25 - 29	9.21	9.30	9.12	12.05	12.15	11.95	8.52	8.61	8.43
25	2.17	2.17	2.17	2.94	2.91	2.97	1.99	2.00	1.97
26	1.85	1.86	1.84	2.41	2.42	2.41	1.72	1.73	1.70
27	1.93	1.96	1.90	2.51	2.54	2.48	1.79	1.82	1.75
28	1.89	1.90	1.88	2.49	2.53	2.46	1.75	1.75	1.74
29	1.36	1.40	1.33	1.69	1.75	1.63	1.29	1.31	1.26
30 - 34	5.18	5.14	5.21	5.60	5.73	5.48	5.07	5.00	5.14
30	1.21	1.19	1.22	1.39	1.41	1.38	1.16	1.14	1.18
31	0.93	0.95	0.91	0.94	0.99	0.90	0.93	0.95	0.91
32	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.13	1.17	1.10	0.98	0.97	0.99
33	1.03	1.01	1.04	1.08	1.10	1.06	1.02	0.99	1.04
34	1.00	0.97	1.02	1.05	1.07	1.02	0.99	0.95	1.02
35 - 39	6.31	6.27	6.35	6.67	6.89	6.46	6.22	6.12	6.32
35	1.39	1.37	1.41	1.48	1.53	1.45	1.37	1.34	1.40
36	1.19	1.17	1.21	1.25	1.28	1.22	1.18	1.14	1.21
37	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.29	1.20	1.24	1.22	1.25
38	1.38	1.38	1.39	1.54	1.59	1.50	1.35	1.33	1.36
39	1.10	1.11	1.10	1.15	1.21	1.09	1.09	1.08	1.10

Table 3.4 Percent distribution of Population by Single Years of Age, Five-Year Age Group Sex and Urban-Rural Residence, Cambodia 2008 (Continued)

Age Group	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
40 - 44	5.51	5.28	5.72	5.57	5.75	5.40	5.49	5.17	5.79
40	1.27	1.19	1.34	1.37	1.39	1.35	1.25	1.14	1.34
41	1.03	1.01	1.06	1.03	1.07	0.99	1.03	0.99	1.07
42	1.17	1.14	1.20	1.21	1.28	1.15	1.16	1.10	1.21
43	1.04	1.00	1.07	1.02	1.06	0.99	1.04	0.99	1.10
44	1.00	0.95	1.04	0.94	0.95	0.93	1.01	0.95	1.07
45 - 49	4.88	4.59	5.16	4.96	4.93	4.99	4.86	4.51	5.20
45	1.20	1.16	1.23	1.22	1.26	1.18	1.20	1.14	1.25
46	0.93	0.87	0.98	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.93	0.86	1.00
47	0.93	0.88	0.97	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.93	0.87	0.99
48	1.04	0.97	1.11	1.12	1.10	1.14	1.02	0.94	1.10
49	0.78	0.70	0.86	0.81	0.75	0.86	0.78	0.69	0.86
50 - 54	3.66	3.01	4.29	3.97	3.54	4.37	3.59	2.88	4.26
50	0.89	0.72	1.05	0.93	0.80	1.05	0.88	0.70	1.05
51	0.70	0.59	0.80	0.74	0.68	0.79	0.69	0.57	0.80
52	0.74	0.60	0.87	0.84	0.74	0.93	0.71	0.57	0.85
53	0.71	0.57	0.84	0.77	0.68	0.86	0.69	0.55	0.83
54	0.63	0.52	0.73	0.69	0.64	0.74	0.61	0.49	0.73
55 - 59	2.92	2.49	3.33	2.98	2.69	3.25	2.91	2.44	3.35
55	0.73	0.60	0.85	0.74	0.66	0.82	0.72	0.59	0.86
56	0.60	0.51	0.68	0.63	0.58	0.68	0.59	0.50	0.68
57	0.57	0.49	0.64	0.58	0.53	0.63	0.57	0.49	0.65
58	0.60	0.51	0.67	0.63	0.56	0.69	0.59	0.50	0.67
59	0.43	0.37	0.48	0.40	0.36	0.43	0.43	0.37	0.49
60 - 64	2.07	1.79	2.34	1.96	1.73	2.17	2.10	1.81	2.38
60	0.57	0.48	0.66	0.54	0.47	0.61	0.58	0.49	0.67
61	0.39	0.34	0.43	0.37	0.33	0.41	0.39	0.34	0.44
62	0.41	0.35	0.46	0.39	0.34	0.43	0.41	0.36	0.46
63	0.39	0.34	0.44	0.37	0.33	0.40	0.39	0.34	0.45
64	0.32	0.28	0.35	0.30	0.27	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.36
65 - 69	1.62	1.39	1.84	1.37	1.16	1.55	1.68	1.44	1.91
65	0.42	0.36	0.48	0.36	0.30	0.42	0.44	0.37	0.50
66	0.29	0.25	0.33	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.30	0.26	0.34
67	0.33	0.29	0.37	0.27	0.23	0.31	0.34	0.30	0.39
68	0.34	0.29	0.39	0.30	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.30	0.40
69	0.24	0.20	0.27	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.28
70 - 74	1.19	0.98	1.38	0.98	0.78	1.16	1.24	1.03	1.44
70	0.33	0.27	0.39	0.27	0.21	0.32	0.34	0.28	0.40
71	0.21	0.18	0.24	0.17	0.15	0.20	0.22	0.19	0.25
72	0.23	0.19	0.27	0.20	0.16	0.24	0.24	0.20	0.28
73	0.23	0.19	0.26	0.19	0.15	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.27
74	0.19	0.15	0.22	0.15	0.12	0.17	0.20	0.16	0.23
75 - 79	0.81	0.66	0.95	0.64	0.49	0.78	0.85	0.70	0.99
75	0.24	0.19	0.28	0.18	0.14	0.23	0.25	0.20	0.29
76	0.16	0.13	0.19	0.13	0.10	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.19
77	0.15	0.12	0.17	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.18
78	0.16	0.13	0.19	0.13	0.10	0.16	0.17	0.14	0.20
79	0.10	0.08	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.12
80 +	0.65	0.51	0.79	0.57	0.40	0.73	0.67	0.53	0.81

Table 3.5 Percentage distribution of Population of Cambodia by Broad Age Group according to different sources

Age Group	Percentage Distribution according to				
	1998 Census	2000 CDHS	2004 CIPS	2005 CDHS	2008 Census
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total	100	100	100	100	100
0 - 14	42.8	42.7	38.6	38.9	33.7
15 - 49	46.9	46.3	49.5	47.9	53.4
50 - 64	6.8	7.4	8.0	8.6	8.6
65 +	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.6	4.3

3.4 Age Dependency Ratio

The age dependency ratio for Cambodia has shown a declining trend during 1998-2008 (Table 3.6) indicating a reduction in the dependency burden. The decline is faster in urban areas as it has come down by about 38 percent as against about 27 percent in rural areas.

Table 3.6 Age Dependency Ratio

Total/ Urban/ Rural	1998	2008	Decline
Total	86.15	61.19	24.96
Urban	65.71	40.79	24.92
Rural	91.44	67.06	24.38

3.5 Age Pattern of Sex Ratio

Closely linked with the age pattern is the sex ratio by age group. The trends in sex ratio over the five year age groups are somewhat similar in 1998 and 2008 taking into account the interval of ten years between the two censuses and the cumulative effect of differential mortality and migration levels on the age cohorts (Table 3.7).

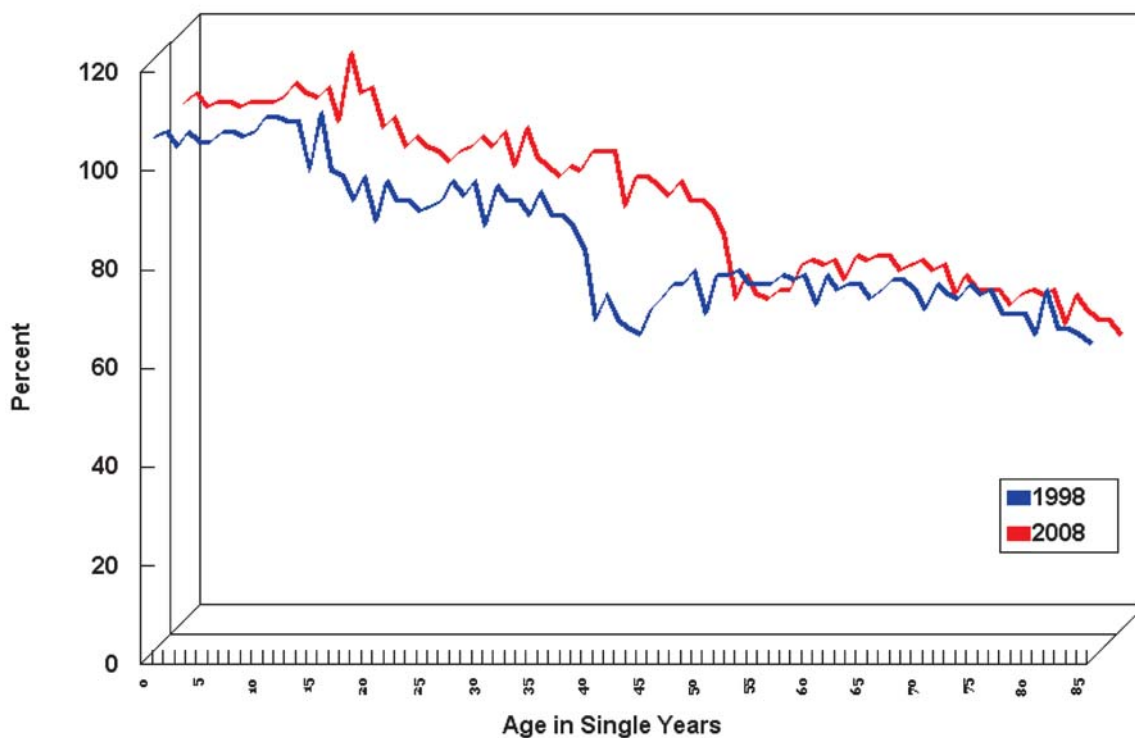
The excess of males at birth declines gradually with age mainly due to higher male mortality. In the age groups 15-19 in 1998 and 25-29 in 2008 (i.e. ten years later) there is a near balance. If only the ages 15 to 29 of the 2008 census are considered the number of males and females are almost equal (nearly 2.11 million) with the sex ratio of 99.9.

In the middle and older ages females very much exceed males in number due to higher male mortality. Very low sex ratios from the age group 40-44 onwards in 1998 (50-54 onwards in 2008) are the results of high male mortality and large scale exodus of adult males from Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge period Figure 3.3 shows the trend in sex ratio by single years of age in 1998 and 2008.

Table 3.7 Sex Ratios by Five-year Age Group, Cambodia 1998 and 2008

Age Group	Sex Ratio according to	
	1998 Census	2008 Census
(1)	(2)	(3)
Total	93.00	94.72
0 - 4	103.86	105.00
5 - 9	104.04	104.73
10 - 14	105.46	105.96
15 - 19	97.66	106.31
20 - 24	90.43	95.64
25 - 29	92.50	96.50
30 - 34	89.70	93.54
35 - 39	87.80	93.51
40 - 44	67.17	87.56
45 - 49	72.67	84.31
50 - 54	73.54	66.45
55 - 59	75.09	70.95
60 - 64	73.15	72.56
65 - 69	73.40	71.66
70 - 74	71.46	67.30
75 +	67.64	63.23

Figure 3.3 Sex Ratios for Age in Single Years, Cambodia 1998 and 2008



3.6 Marital Status

The study of distribution of persons according to their marital status forms an important part of the study of population characteristics. Marital status, unlike sex or age is not a biological characteristic, but is an acquired one. The study of the marital status of a population is useful for a variety of reasons. In Cambodian society the majority of reproduction takes place only in wedlock. Marriage is an important fertility indicator for most Cambodian women. The marital status distribution therefore becomes important in fertility studies. Some of the related factors are the proportion of never married persons, females in the reproductive age group (15 to 44), the age at marriage, the proportion of widowed and divorced and their ages.

Table 3.8 Percent distribution of Population Aged 15 and over by Marital Status and according to Sex and Residence, Cambodia, 2008 and 1998

Total/ Urban/ Rural	Sex	Number	Marital status of population					
			Total	Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
2008								
Total	Both Sexes	8,881,890	100	32.71	60.16	4.99	2.02	0.12
	Males	4,201,248	100	37.00	60.80	1.29	0.84	0.07
	Females	4,680,642	100	28.86	59.59	8.32	3.07	0.16
Urban	Both Sexes	1,949,676	100	41.54	52.38	4.06	1.89	0.13
	Males	915,814	100	44.79	53.38	0.95	0.80	0.08
	Females	1,033,862	100	38.67	51.50	6.81	2.85	0.17
Rural	Both Sexes	6,932,214	100	30.23	62.35	5.26	2.05	0.11
	Males	3,285,434	100	34.83	62.88	1.38	0.85	0.06
	Females	3,646,780	100	26.08	61.87	8.75	3.14	0.16
1998								
Total	Both Sexes	6,539,848	100	29.46	61.27	6.55	2.36	0.36
	Males	3,009,001	100	32.85	64.59	1.60	0.80	0.16
	Females	3,530,847	100	26.56	58.46	10.76	3.68	0.54
Urban	Both Sexes	1,325,949	100	35.63	56.09	5.70	2.30	0.28
	Males	627,016	100	39.77	58.19	1.10	0.80	0.14
	Females	698,933	100	31.92	54.21	9.82	3.64	0.41
Rural	Both Sexes	5,213,899	100	27.89	62.60	6.76	2.37	0.38
	Males	2,381,985	100	31.03	66.28	1.73	0.80	0.16
	Females	2,831,914	100	25.24	59.49	11.00	3.70	0.57

As may be seen from Table 3.8, the proportion of “Never married”, that is those who are single and those who are “Married”, that is those who are currently married among males are higher than the corresponding proportions of females. The position is reversed in the other three marital status categories: widowed, divorced and separated. Higher proportions of women have not remarried once they had lost their husbands or got separated. Hence the proportion of women in each of these categories is higher than that of men. These trends are observed both in the 1998 and 2008 censuses. However some changes are noticed in the proportions during 1998-2008. The proportion of never married has increased both in respect of males and females. The proportion married has shown a general decline though in the case of females it has slightly increased. Both in respect of males and females the proportions of widowed and separated are marginally lower in 2008 than in 1998.

The pattern of distribution by marital status is more or less the same in both rural and urban areas (Table 3.8). The highest percentage is noticed in the category married followed by the proportions in the categories never married, widowed, divorced and separated in that order. However another characteristic feature in the marital status distribution is that the proportion of never married among the urban population is higher than that of the rural population. The opposite position is observed in respect of the other marital status categories. In both urban and rural areas the proportions married and never married among males are each higher than the corresponding proportions among females. The proportion of widows is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Figure 3.4 Percentage Currently Married by Age group among Population aged 15 and above by Sex, Cambodia, 2008

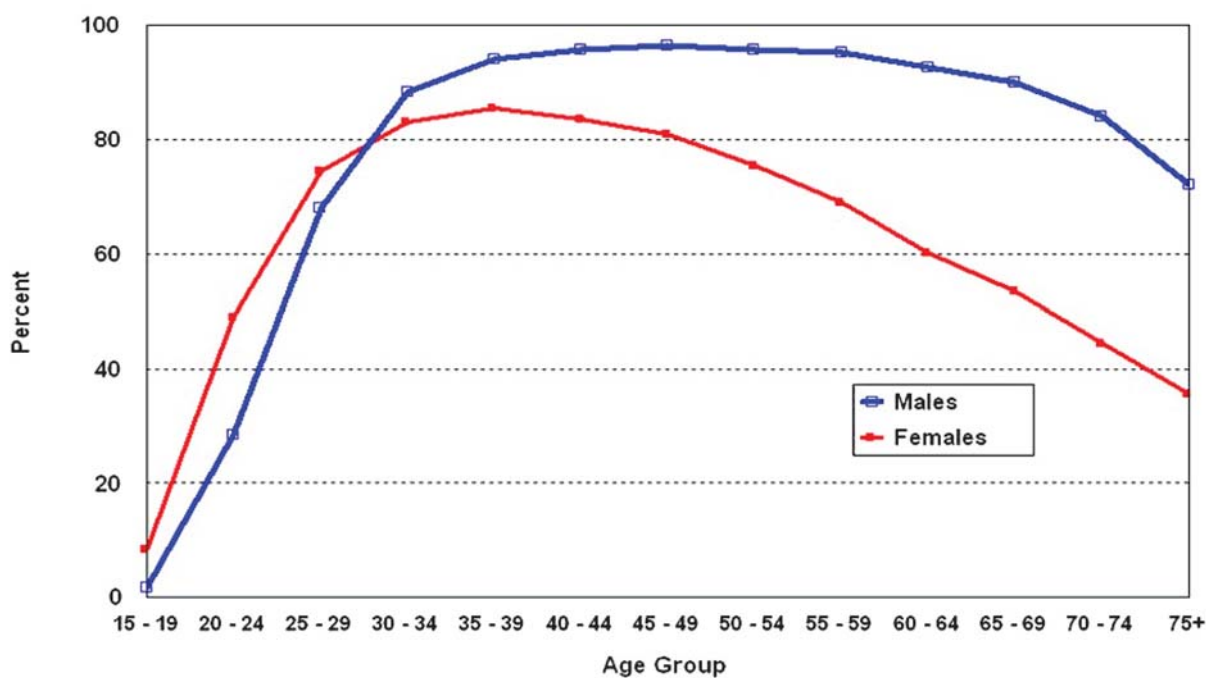


Table 3.9 Percent distribution of Population Aged 15 and more of Cambodia by Marital Status, Sex and Five-year Age Group, 2008

Age Group	Number	Percentage of				
		Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Both Sexes						
15+	8,881,890	32.7	60.2	5.0	2.0	0.1
15-19	1,619,290	94.9	4.9	0.1	0.1	0.0
20 - 24	1,369,202	59.8	38.9	0.3	0.9	0.1
25 - 29	1,233,361	26.2	71.3	0.6	1.8	0.1
30 - 34	693,235	10.7	85.5	1.3	2.4	0.1
35 - 39	844,948	5.8	89.6	2.0	2.5	0.1
40 - 44	737,451	4.3	89.2	3.5	2.8	0.2
45 - 49	653,650	3.3	88.0	5.4	3.1	0.2
50 - 54	490,726	3.3	83.5	9.5	3.5	0.2
55 - 59	391,116	2.7	79.8	13.9	3.4	0.2
60 - 64	277,611	2.7	73.7	20.1	3.3	0.2
65 - 69	216,839	2.3	68.7	25.3	3.6	0.1
70 - 74	158,945	2.8	60.4	32.6	4.0	0.2
75+	195,516	3.6	49.7	41.7	4.8	0.2
Males						
15+	4,201,248	37.0	60.8	1.3	0.8	0.1
15-19	834,416	98.2	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.0
20 - 24	669,343	70.8	28.5	0.1	0.5	0.1
25 - 29	605,706	30.7	68.0	0.2	1.0	0.1
30 - 34	335,046	10.1	88.2	0.4	1.2	0.1
35 - 39	408,295	4.3	94.0	0.5	1.1	0.1
40 - 44	344,275	2.4	95.7	0.8	1.0	0.1
45 - 49	299,005	1.3	96.5	1.2	0.9	0.1
50 - 54	195,911	1.3	95.8	1.8	1.0	0.1
55 - 59	162,328	1.0	95.2	2.7	1.0	0.1
60 - 64	116,731	1.4	92.5	4.7	1.3	0.1
65 - 69	90,521	1.3	89.9	6.9	1.8	0.1
70 - 74	63,938	2.2	84.1	11.1	2.4	0.2
75+	75,733	3.7	72.1	20.2	3.8	0.2
Females						
15+	4,680,642	28.8	59.6	8.3	3.1	0.2
15-19	784,874	91.3	8.4	0.1	0.2	0.0
20 - 24	699,859	49.2	48.9	0.4	1.4	0.1
25 - 29	627,655	21.8	74.4	1.0	2.6	0.2
30 - 34	358,189	11.2	83.0	2.1	3.5	0.2
35 - 39	436,653	7.2	85.4	3.4	3.8	0.2
40 - 44	393,176	6.0	83.6	5.8	4.4	0.2
45 - 49	354,645	5.0	80.9	8.9	5.0	0.2
50 - 54	294,815	4.7	75.4	14.5	5.1	0.3
55 - 59	228,788	3.9	68.9	21.8	5.2	0.2
60 - 64	160,880	3.6	60.1	31.2	4.9	0.2
65 - 69	126,318	2.9	53.5	38.5	4.9	0.2
70 - 74	95,007	3.2	44.5	47.1	5.0	0.2
75+	119,783	3.5	35.6	55.4	5.4	0.1

As expected the percentage of never married decreases while the percentage of married increases with age. The proportion of persons who have never married among the total population aged 15 and more decreases with age to a low level of about six percent in the age group 35-39. This reflects the near-universality of marriage in the Cambodian society. The proportion of currently married women increases with age up to this age group and declines thereafter due to increasing proportions of widowed and divorced women.

3.7 Age at Marriage

Age at marriage is closely associated with the fertility performance of women. If the age at marriage is sufficiently high especially for women, there is the possibility of cutting down on their reproductive span and thus reduce fertility. There was no direct question on Age at Marriage in the 1998 and 2008 Censuses. The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) has therefore been compiled by sex using Hajanl's method. The data on number of persons single (never married) in Table 3.9 were used in this compilation.

The singulate mean age at first marriage (SMAM) has always been higher for males than for females (Table 3.10). It has increased in the country during the last decade, both for males and females. The rise in age at marriage of women from 22.5 to 23.3 could have also contributed to a certain extent to the decline in fertility during 1998-2008.

Table 3.10 Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by Sex and Residence

Residence	Year	Mean Age at Marriage		Difference
		Males	Females	
Total	1998	24.2	22.5	1.7
	2008	25.6	23.3	2.3
Urban	1998	26.8	23.8	3.0
	2008	28	25.5	2.5
Rural	1998	23.5	22.1	1.4
	2008	24.8	22.5	2.3