

Brief Analysis of Kampong Cham Province Final Results of General Population Census of Cambodia 2008

1. Population Size, Growth, and Distribution

1.1 Population Size

According to the final results, the population of Kampong Cham Province at 00:00 am of March 3, 2008 stood at 925,992 persons comprising 450,329 males (48.6 %) and 475,663 females (51.4 %), accounted for 6.9 % of that of Cambodia, and was the fifth in 25 provinces. This count included an estimate for non-response in respect of some households. The final figures released are the results of detailed scrutiny, editing and validation of each and every filled-in schedule. (Refer to Table 1-1 and 1-2.)

1.2 Population Distribution in Districts

Looking at the population by district, Prey Chhor was the largest with 125,352 persons accounting for 13.5%. Subsequently, Stueng Trang 118,907 (12.8%); Chamkar Leu 110,967 (12.0%); Batheay 102,924 (11.1%); Kampong Siem 100,047 (10.8%); and so on. Prey Chhor District is along the national road No.4 and is on the way to Phnom Penh. (Refer to Table 1-2, Graph 1, and Map 1.)

1.3 Population Density

The density of population is one of the important indices of population concentration. It is defined as the number of persons per square kilometer. The population density of Kampong Cham Province was 204 persons per square kilometer. This is the fifth in 25 provinces. Looking at the population density by district, Kampong Cham City was the highest with 2,063 persons/km². Subsequently, Kaoh Soutin 324; and so on. (Refer to Table 1-2, Graph 2, and Map 2.)

2. Sex Composition, Age Distribution, and Marital Status of the Population

2.1 Sex Composition

The sex ratio of the total population of Kampong Cham Province is 94.7. In other words there are more females than males in the population of this province. This is owing to heavy mortality among men during the Khmer Rouge holocaust years. However it has been showing gradual improvement since that time. (Refer to Table 2 and Graph 3.)

In Kampong Cham province, since the volume of international migration is very few, it doesn't have any marked impact on the sex structure of the population. On the other hand, the rate of internal migration also is about a half of 26.5%, that of the whole Cambodia.

2.2 Age Structure

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. The age group 10-14 represents the largest cohort (13.0%). The age group 15-19 indicates comparatively high fertility level in the early 1990s. (Refer to Table 3-1, 3-2, Map 3, and Population Pyramid.)

Above the age of 12 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. (Refer to Population Pyramid.)

2.3 Age Dependency Ratio

The proportion of children (under 15 years old) is 34.7%, and that of aged persons (65 years old and over) is 5.7%. Both indicators are a little higher than the average of the whole Cambodia. While the proportion of working-age population (15-64 years old) is 59.5%.

The age dependency ratio of Kampong Cham Province has shown 68.0% and is a little higher than 61.2%, that of the whole Cambodia. It means that this province bears heavier burden than the average of Cambodia. (Refer to Map 3 and 4.)

2.4 Marital Status

In the society, majority of reproduction in Cambodia takes place only in wedlock. Marriage is an important fertility indicator for most of women in Cambodia because it marks the commencement of regular exposure to the risk of pregnancy. The marital status distribution therefore becomes important in fertility studies.

Looking at the population by marital status and sex, as to male, “Never married” was the largest with 261,219 persons accounting for 58.0%. Subsequently, “Married” 181,487 (40.3%); “Widowed” 4,797 (1.1%); “Divorced” 2,610 (0.6%); and “Separated” 216 (0.0%).

As for female, “Never married” was the largest with 234,352 persons accounting for 49.3%. Subsequently, “Married” 200,661 (42.2%); “Widowed” 29,107 (6.1%); “Divorced” 10,921 (2.3%); and “Separated” 622 (0.1%). (Refer to Table 3-1 and 3-2.)

The proportions of “Never married” among males are higher than those among 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.

3. Mother Tongue and Religion

3.1 Population by Mother Tongue

The question on mother tongue was a sensitive questions in the census. It was carefully canvassed by enumerators. The census education and information campaign also emphasized that answers to census questions should be given by the respondents truthfully. It was also publicized that census individual information would be kept confidential. The percentage distribution of speakers of mother tongue shows that Khmer is the predominant mother tongue in Kampong Cham Province.

Looking at the population by religion, Khmer was the largest with 902,812 persons accounting for 97.5%. Subsequently, all minority languages 22,366 (2.4%); Vietnamese 631 (0.1%); and so on. (Refer to Table 4-1 and 4-2.)

3.2 Population Distribution by Religion

The predominant religion in Kampong Cham province is Buddhism. The category of “Others” contains mainly a few minority religious groups from other countries.

Looking at the population by religion, Buddhism was the largest with 903,632 persons accounting for 97.6%. Subsequently, Islam 21,326 (2.3%); and so on. (Refer to Table 5-1 and 5-2.)

4. Literacy and Educational Attainment

4.1 Background and Definitions

In 2008, information on language in which literate was also collected for the first time. In both the censuses of 1998 and 2008, all children aged under 7 were treated as illiterate even if any child was going to a school or might have picked up reading and writing a few odd words in a language.

The general literacy rate that is the percentage of literate population to total population aged 7 and over. The general literacy rate of Kampong Cham Province was 80.0%, that of males was 85.7 %, and that of females was 74.7 %. As compared with the whole Cambodia, these rates are all a little higher. For example, that of both sexes of the whole Cambodia is 78.3%. (Refer to Table 11-1, 11-2, Graph 4, and Map 7.)

4.2 Adult Literacy Rate

Literate persons aged 15 and over are referred to as adult literate population. Adult literacy rate is defined as the percentage of literate persons aged 15 and over to total population aged 15 and over. The adult literacy rate of Kampong Cham Province was 78.2%, that of males was 85.9 %, and that of females was 71.4 %. As compared with the whole Cambodia, these rates also are all a little higher. For example, that of both sexes of the whole Cambodia is 77.6%. (Refer to Table 11-1, 11-2, and Graph 5.)

4.3 Educational Level

56.3% of the total literate population in Kampong Cham Province has not completed the primary level of education, those who have completed the primary and lower secondary levels form 28.0% and 14.4% respectively. A small proportion of the literate population (2.0%) has acquired literacy without formal education. “Secondary/Baccalaureate” including “Pre-secondary”, and “Post-secondary” constitute 0.8% of the literate population. “Undergraduate” and “Graduates” together form only 0.4%. The rate of “Secondary/Baccalaureate” or higher are a little lower as compared with 3.1%, that of the whole Cambodia.

In the levels from Primary (completed) to Beyond Secondary, the numbers and proportions gradually decrease and the proportions of females are always less than those of males. It is therefore clear that there is generally large scale drop outs both among males and females as they advance from grade to grade and this phenomenon is more common among females.

In the age group 15-19 normally one should have completed lower secondary level of education. Looking at the literate population, it is seen that only 28.5% has completed that level of education or higher at the age 15-19. 44.0% in this age group has completed only the primary level and 27.4% has not even completed that level.

The level of education of the population may also be viewed from the angle of educational attainment of the population aged 25 and over who should have finished their education. As regards

Beyond Secondary level, only 0.5% of the literate population aged 25 and over has ever entered the portals of any institute of higher education like Universities. In the case of females it is only 0.2%. (Refer to Table 11-1, 11-2, Graph 6, and Map 8.)

4.4 School Attendance

In modern times, people have to travel to places of their study or work and stay there for most part of the day. The distribution of population therefore changes somewhat in day time. In the 2008 Census, every full time student was asked whether he/she was attending school or educational institution in the same district where he/she was residing or in another district or at a place across the border of the country (Col. 23 of Form B Household Questionnaire Part 2). This information was collected for the first time at the 2008 Census. This data at the province level may throw more light on day time population at the different locations of schools and educational institutions.

Looking at the number of students attending school fulltime, the aged 7-12 was 116,256 and accounted for 87.3% of the population aged 7-12. In the same way, the aged 13-15 was 61,870 (83.4%), and the aged 16-18 was 33,449 (53.1%). As compared with the whole Cambodia, these rates are all higher. For example, that of the aged 7-12 of the whole Cambodia is 83.4%. In addition, there were a number of persons who were working their way through school.

Of them, 99.6% of the aged 7-12 commute to school in the same district; 99.3% for the aged 13-15; and 98.4% for the aged 16-18. Almost all students are attending school or educational institution in the same district.

Looking at the aged 15 and over, the proportion of females attending school continues to be less than the corresponding proportion for males.

In the 2008 census information was collected for the first time on children aged 5 attending school. Looking at the aged under 15, the proportion of females attending school was a little higher than the corresponding proportion for males. This is showing an interest on the part of parents to put both male and female kids in the school at that age.

In Kampong Cham Province, there are still many villages without school. Development schemes have to be geared-up to improve the above situation. Special attention has to be paid to stop or minimize the school drop outs especially among girls at the primary level itself and improve the literacy and educational levels of women. (Refer to Table 13-1 and 13-2.)

5. Economic Characteristics of the Population

5.1 General Note

The economically active population or labor force of a nation is that part of manpower which actually takes part or attempts to take part, in the production of economic goods and services. The economic and social development of a country depends on the number of persons who are economically active, the quality of their work and regularity of their job. The analysis of census statistics on economically active population enables us to know the absolute size as well as the proportion of the adult population constituting it.

Economically active population includes those who are employed and unemployed. Population not economically active refers to the following categories: homemaker, student, dependent, rent receiver, retired or other income recipient, and others who are not economically active for most of the time and who do not come under any of these four categories. Census also provides the number of persons in each of these functional categories of economically not active persons by sex and age group.

The reference period for recording the answers under main activity as employed, unemployed (employed any time before), unemployed (never employed any time before) or any of the inactive categories, was the one year or 12 months preceding the census night, that is from 4 March 2007 to 3 March 2008. Main activity is defined as the activity during 6 months (183 days) or more during the one year reference period. In other words it is activity in the major part of the one year preceding the census date.

5.2 Economically Active Population

Looking at the number of economically active population, the aged 15 and over was 480,177 and accounted for 79.4% of the population aged 15 and over. In the same way, the aged 15-64 was 450,886 (81.8%), and the aged 65 and over was 29,291 (55.0%). As compared with the whole Cambodia, these rates are a little higher. For example, that of the aged 15 and over of the whole Cambodia is 78.3%. Men and women form 48.6 and 51.4% respectively of the economically active population aged 15 and over in Kampong Cham Province.

On the other hand, the aged under 15 was 6,131 (1.9%). This rate is a little lower than 2.2%, that of Cambodia. (Refer to Table 21-1 and 21-2.)

5.3 Unemployment

Looking at the number of the unemployed, the aged 15 and over was 3,895 and accounted for 0.8% of the economically active population aged 15 and over. In the same way, the aged 15-64 was 3,656 (0.8%). As compared with the whole Cambodia, these rates are fairly lower. For example, that of the aged 15 and over of the whole Cambodia is 1.6%. Men and women form 45.8 and 54.2% respectively of the unemployed aged 15 and over in Kampong Cham Province. (Refer to Table 21-1 and 21-2.)

5.4 Employment Status

Looking at the aged 15 and over, an analysis of the status in employment reveals that unpaid family workers and own account workers together constitute 88.9% of the employed population in Kampong Cham Province. This indicates that most of the employed persons in Kampong Cham Province are in the informal or the unorganized sector. This rate is fairly higher as compared with 82.5%, that of the whole Cambodia. Among male employed persons, own account workers account for 59.2%. In the case of females the highest proportion is that of unpaid family workers: 65.6%. As a general tendency, while the proportion of own account workers is declining, that of paid employees is increasing considerably.

The aged 65 and over are mostly own account workers (64.2%). (Refer to Table 22-1 and 22-2.)

5.5 Sectors of Employment

Sector of employment refers to sectors like Government, private, foreign-owned etc. to which the institution or establishment of the employed person belongs. Most of the employed population aged 15 and over in Kampong Cham Province is in local private enterprises: 95.6%. Government jobs (3.1%); jobs in foreign enterprises like foreign banks etc. (0.6%); and jobs in state-owned enterprise (0.3%). This leaves only 0.3% for all the other four sectors. (Refer to Table 23-1 and 23-2.)

6. Industrial Classifications

(based on International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev. 4)

Looking at the number of the employed aged 5 and over by industrial section, “Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)” was the largest with 392,675 persons accounting for 81.4%. Subsequently, “Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)” 30,346 (6.3%); “Manufacturing (C)” 17,016 (3.5%); “Transportation and storage (H)” 8,501 (1.8%); “Education (P)” 8,050 (1.7%); and so on. The rate of “Manufacturing (C)” is fairly lower as compared with 6.2%, that of the whole Cambodia. (Refer to Table 25-1 and 25-2.)

There are the three industrial sectors of employment, namely primary (or Agriculture), secondary (or Industry) and tertiary (Services). The primary sector relates to Industrial Section A. The secondary sector includes B to F Industrial Sections and the tertiary sector covers the Industrial Sections G to U.

As a general tendency, the proportion of population in the primary sector is declining and the proportions in both the secondary sector and the tertiary sector are increasing. The movement of the employed from the primary sector to the secondary or tertiary sector is one of the features commonly seen in the process of the development of a country.

Looking at the number of the employed aged 5 and over by industrial group, “Growing of non-perennial crops (011)” was the largest with 369,085 persons accounting for 76.6%. Subsequently, “Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities (016)” 12,682 (2.6%); “Retail sale via stalls and markets (478)” 10,737 (2.2%); “Retail sale in non-specialized stores (471)” 9,112 (1.9%); “Manufacture of wearing apparel, except fur apparel (141)” 5,605 (1.2%); “Other land transport (492)” 5,264 (1.1%); “Pre-primary and primary education (851)” 5,136 (1.1%); and so on. The rate of “Manufacture of wearing apparel, except fur apparel (141)” is fairly lower as compared with 4.3%, that of the whole Cambodia. (Refer to Table 26-1 and 26-2.)

7. Occupational Classifications

(based on International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (ISCO-08))

Looking at the number of the employed aged 5 and over by occupational major group, “Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers (6)” was the largest with 376,824 persons accounting for 78.2%. Subsequently, “Service and sales workers (5)” 32,243 (6.7%); “Elementary occupations (9)” 25,725 (5.3%); “Craft and related workers (7)” 20,105 (4.2%); “Technicians and associate professionals (3)” 8,267 (1.7%); and so on. The rate of “Technicians and associate professionals (3)” is a little lower as compared with 2.2%, that of the whole Cambodia. (Refer to Table 27-1 and 27-2.)

Looking at the number of the employed aged 5 and over by occupational minor group, “Subsistence crop farmers (631)” was the largest with 312,902 persons accounting for 64.9%. Subsequently, “Market gardeners and crop growers (611)” 58,061 (12.0%); “Agricultural, forestry and fishery laborers (921)” 15,677 (3.3%); “Protective services workers (541)” 13,163 (2.7%); “Shop salespersons (548)” 8,540 (1.8%); “Primary school and early childhood teachers (234)” 5,023 (1.0%); and so on. The rate of “Primary school and early childhood teachers (234)” is slightly higher as compared with 0.9%, that of the whole Cambodia. (Refer to Table 28-1 and 28-2.)