

Pilot Survey

Nepal Economic Census 2018

Operation and Lessons Learnt



YADU NATH ACHARYA
Director
Statistics Office, Kanchanpur

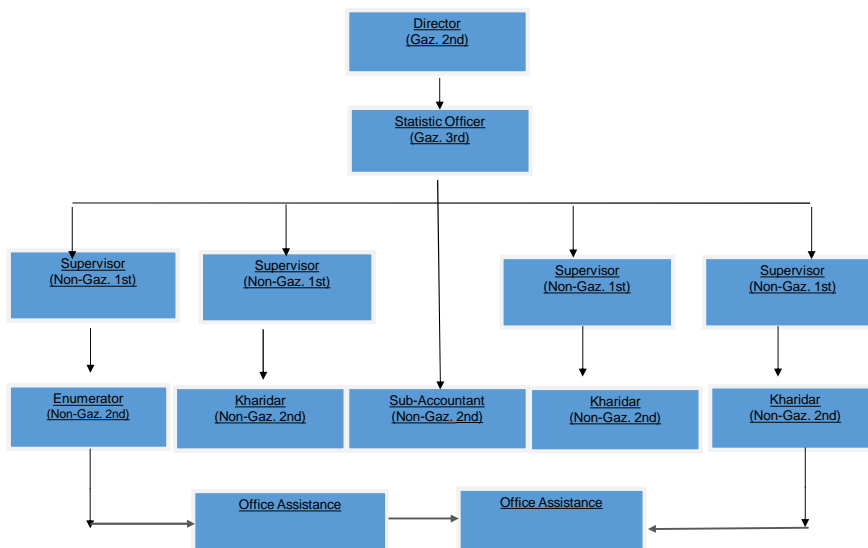
11 Sep. 2017

Statistics Office (SO) Kanchanpur: An Overview

- As the official wings of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 33 Statistical Offices have been supporting statistical activities of the central and local government guided/ directed by CBS.
- SOs are basically working as the field offices of CBS.
- SO Kanchanpur is one of the branches of CBS established in 1993 with the working scope of two districts- Kailali and Kanchanpur.
- The SO is only one office in Province No. 7 headed by Director (Gazette 2nd. Class officer).

Total Post : 13 but only 8 are fulfilled.

SO Kanchanpur: Human Resource



Major Functions of SO

- As an operating field office for census and surveys, the SO engages in all types of censuses/surveys by CBS.
- Supporting and conducting training programs in district level as directed by CBS and guided by the local needs.
- Operating Regular programs: Data collection for Quarterly National Accounts, Annual National Accounts, Price Indices (MPI/PPI, Construction Sector, Agricultural Producer Price), Environment Statistics, ICP etc.
- Collecting the secondary data according to CBS & SO requirement.
- Conducting field works for EA mapping.
- Preparing and publishing local level profiles and data sheets.
- Monitoring and inspection of field operations.
- Coordinating statistical activities at local level.

Constraints of SO

- No own office building
- Inadequate machinery equipments (computers, printers, photocopy machines, UPSs, etc.)
- Diversity in staffs (technical/non-technical)
- Lack of computer knowledge/skill in some staff
- Inadequate training/Human Resource Development opportunities to the staff
- Inadequate the number of Human Resource in comparison to the work load

Nepal Economic Census 2018 (EC2018) Pilot Survey : Field Operation and Experience

District : Kailali and Kanchanpur

- Kailali : Dhangadhi Municipality Ward No. 2 (Urban)
- Kanchanpur : Baise Bichwa Village Development Committee (VDC) Ward No. 5 (Rural)

Economic Unit

- Dhangadhi Municipality, Ward No. 2 : 100
- Baise Bichwa Ward No. 5 and 6 :100 (Ward No. 5 comprised<100 units)

Enumeration Scheme

- PAPI based listing and enumeration
- Simultaneous operation of the listing and the final enumeration
- Data entry in desktop version (CSPro software)
- Human Resource: Two enumerators for the enumeration
 - Director and Stat. Officer for supervision
 - One assistant for data entry

Methodology of Data Collection

- The listing of all economic activities (Form B) was administered at both Enumeration Areas (EAs) .
- To prepare EA map of Dhangadi Municipality, cartography was performed by SO staff previous to the survey.
- EA map of Baise Bichawa was not prepared.
- Dhangadhi Municipality No. 2 was divided into four sub-wards and listing was done only in first sub-ward.

Methodology of Data Collection.....

- 100 Economic units from each EA were listed.
- Time period for the listing was 1 week for both EAs.
- The enumeration was carried out within two weeks.
- The data entry was performed within 15 days.

e-Census and CAPI

- e-Census is absolutely new exercise in data collection for this SO. The SO welcomes and appreciates this effort.
- No economic unit was ready to participate in e-Census. To make them participated, Director himself and Stat. Officer performed necessary efforts/requests in field supervision. (Let's hope, some will participate in the final enumeration.)
- Both the trained enumerators from the SO were computer illiterate, hence they were unable to use Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) i.e. 100% Paper Base Personal Interview (PAPI) method was applied.

Training

- All of training/workshops were conducted by CBS.
- The training became effective in course of the data collection. (for the clarification of concept and definition)
- Due to high dependency on lecture method, some practical difficulties on Form B were borne by the enumerators. (recommend field practice and making interview)

Survey Instruments

- Form A, Form B, and manuals were provided as hard copy to the enumerators.
- Supervisors used them by tablet during the supervision. (So the effort of providing the forms and manuals in dual-type is appreciable.)
- Bag, touch light, calculator, umbrella, note pad, and pens were provided for the enumerators.
- The enumerators complained that identity cards were not issued.

Response, Non-response and Revisit

- Because of economic matters, obtaining responses was felt relatively harder.
- The tendency of escaping from the interview was common in respondents. Some of establishments wanted to respond in real time.
- Due to memory lapses, some respondents seemed to be reluctant to respond.
- Respondents feel fear that their responses might be used for taxation purpose.
- Very few units (about 10%) were revisited.

Supervision

- The supervision was fully performed by the SO in spite of the absence of central level supervision.
- Director and Stat. Officers participated in the supervision
- At the very beginning of the listing and survey operation, the supervision was done. Therefore, the errors were minimized at the very beginning.

Publicity and Public Opinion

- In local level, its publicity was almost nil. Therefore, respondents totally ignored about the economic census.
- No printed material for publicity (except the request letter/help letter to establishments issued by FNCCI) was distributed to the enumerators.
- General public as well as stakeholders knew little about the importance, use and sensitivity of the economic census. They behaved in the same way as **other surveys**.

Topics

- Questions mostly responded
 - General information, registration, legal status, owner's description, etc.
- Questions hard to get responses
 - Qn. 12 (Persons engaged), income, gross capital (fixed and current), Area of business unit
- Questions hard to the enumerators
 - Major economic activity (International Standard of Industrial Classification (ISIC) coding)

EC2018 Pilot Survey: Positive Side (Strength)

- The base survey for the historical first-ever Economic Census
- A pilot survey with a very large scale coverage (covering 33 SOs and their covering districts)
- e-Census and CAPI
- Real-time data management
- Desk-top data-entry application (when PAPI used)
- Use of EA maps (cartographic work)

EC2018 Pilot Survey: Negative Side (Weakness)

- Need more examples in the manuals to clarify
- Lack of advocacy and publicity
- Computer illiterate Human Resource
- Training method (no field practice)
- Weak or nil coordination
- Central level **supervision**

Recommendations for the Forthcoming Census

- Human Resource:
 - At least 12 computer literate persons are required in contract basis.
 - Mobilize computer literate persons from local level offices.
 - Priority to female enumerators
- Census Instruments:
 - e-Census, CAPI, and PAPI
 - Both listing and enumeration
 - Essential materials for enumerators in a tolerable quality
 - Identity Card
- e-Census and tablet operation:
 - E-mail function is necessary for e-Census or CAPI for confirmation, check, etc.
 - Dual save option is desired in case **of CAPI**.

Recommendations.....

- EA maps:
 - Due to reconstruction of the local level, EA map is necessary to all highly densed urban areas. But in a lower densed area, an enumerator can perform whole part of a ward in a longer time (about 1.5 month).
 - Can be used previously prepared EA maps (if available) for municipalities.
 - If EA maps are unavailable, conduct cartographic work of highly densed urban centers from Economic Census Office in District previous to the listing.

Recommendations.....

- Listing:
 - Listing operation before main census operation on housing/dweling basis
 - Collection of basic info. (if possible) as House No., name of the house owner, total number of households in the house, serial number and name of economic units (if exists)
 - Sticker to the house having economic unit
- Census Operation:
 - Based on the listing, estimate the human resource
 - Visit only those houses where establishments were reported.

Recommendations.....

- Forms:
 - Form A and B need to be reformed based on pilot survey experiences/lessons
 - Interchange the order of Qn. 5 and 6 so that skip pattern can be applied in case of registration for the government/semi-government owned economic units.
 - If possible, the straight question to obtain income figure (Qn. 19.1) should be reformed. (Total sales X per unit price is an example.)
 - Two options fields will be better to attain income figure as daily, monthly, annual focusing on the nature of economic unit.

Recommendations.....

- Manuals:
 - Economic Census Officer's Manual
 - Supervision Manual
 - Enumerators Manual
 - Training Manual
 - Tablet Operation Manual
 - Online Survey (E-census) Manual
 - Desktop Data Entry Manual
 - Coding Manual (for PAPI)

Recommendations.....

- Publicity:
 - A comprehensive strategy should be prepared for publicity via central and local level.
 - Publicity should be started before one/two weeks of survey operation.
 - A request letter comprising the needs, importance and confidentiality should be prepared and massively distributed.
 - Publicity coordinating with stakeholders (as FNCCI, CNI, FNJ, SEJON etc.).
 - Publicity materials in local language
 - SMS, Jingles, Documentry, Caps/T-shirts with Economic Census logo
 - Publicity through online media, electronic media and paper media
 - Seminars, talk programs, etc.

Recommendations.....

- Coordination/co-operation:
 - In local level, a coordination committee headed by CDO will be effective.
 - Representation from local FNCCI and Sectoral Organization of Economic Units (PABSON, Contractor's Association of Nepal, Auditor's Association etc.)
 - Inclusion of related government offices of district in the committee
 - Interaction with elected politicians in local level to obtain their cooperation
 - A hot-line in CBS for regular coordination/contact with the SOs

Recommendations.....

- Training:
 - Theoretical as well as practical (field practice, interview, etc.) training
 - First two days for theoretical sessions
 - Third day: one session for ISIC, one session for practice of interview, two sessions for tablet operation
 - Forth day: Field practice
 - Fifth day: First two sessions for experience sharing and review from field practice, two sessions for e-Census and sum-up.

SO Training / Human Resource Development Needs

- Training/workshops for statistical literacy/coordination
 - Target to the local level offices (DCC, municipalities) government offices of district and province, academic institutions, NGOs, etc.
 - Focus on use and importance of official statistical, NSS, and available district level statistics/indicators
- IT related Training
 - Target to SO staff, statistical staff of the local level offices (DCC, municipalities), government offices of district and province, academic institutions, etc.
 - Focus on data management and analysis (CSPRO, SPSS, and STATA are high in demand.)

SO Training / Human Resource Development Needs

- Training to the SO staff
 - Training on official statistics and statistical ethics/norms, standards, and quality control.
 - Training to enhance computer knowledge, CAPI, and online survey
 - Training on supervision and monitoring statistical operations/activities
 - Training on data processing, management, simple analysis, and interpretation
 - Training on human relation and interviewing skill
 - General administrative training

SO Training/Human Resource Development Needs

- Other Human Resource Development
 - Opportunities to participate in national level training/workshops
 - Opportunities to participate in international training/workshops/seminars