

Data Processing's Role and Issues in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: The case of Ghana

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Abstract

This paper is concerned with data processing issues associated with population censuses in Sub-Saharan African countries. We use Ghana's 2010 population and housing census to identify problems and challenges that arise if data processing is not planned as a holistic part of a population census. We identify appropriate technologies that enhance data processing and the various stages of censuses that have to be coordinated and incorporated with the data processing stage in the planning of national population census. These include demarcation, editing, enumeration, funding, scanning and structural editing. Our key finding are that data processing should be incorporated as an integral part into the planning of national population censuses and funds should be made available on time for the census technology to be properly tested. It is high-time Ghana considers a digital census so as to avoid problems of processing paper-based censuses. This is the more reason why data processing should be part of initial planning of censuses. Based on our findings for Ghana, we conclude the paper with recommendations for Ghana and these recommendations have heuristic value for other Sub-Saharan African countries.

Keywords: demarcation, enumeration, funding, scanning.