Table C-15: Religious community by age-group and sex

I- INTRODUCTION

An overview on the presentation and tabulation of age data in Indian censuses since the beginning supplemented, by concepts and definitions of age and methodology of collection of data and tabulation and limitations etc., has been presented already in the background note to Table C-14, which has been released earlier. Table C-15 is supplementary to the Table C-14 in which data are presented for each of the religious communities. In the past, Tables on distribution of female population alone by age have been presented for major religious communities from the fertility point of view. This is for the first time that tabulation of age data by religious communities has been made for both the sexes.

Socio-cultural aspects of any society influence its demographic profile immensely. The traditions, the customs, the family, caste, tribe, religion and also the place of residence have an effect on its demography. The customs include the food they eat, the style of living, the status of women in the society, the age at marriage, the conjugal relation and even the sex of the child they want and many more. All these broadly determine the fertility and mortality rates, the sex ratio and thus finally shape the demographic structure of the particular society in which they live. Cultures, customs and beliefs etc., of a population have also a close association with the religion in which the people have a faith. Thus, the religion alongwith its rites, rituals and ceremonies is an important factor in the determinants of the religion. This gives an independent identity to a social group, and is thus an important way to understand the demographic features of different socio-cultural groups.

The present release is restricted to the age-sex data by religious communities, namely, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and 'Other Religious Communities' separately by broad age-groups and residence. With a view to make the 2001 Census age-sex data by religious communities available to the data users soon after it is processed and produced in the form of specific table, as mentioned below, the Office of the Registrar General, India has decided to release it electronically. A printed volume based on this table will be brought out separately.

Table No.	Title	Lowest level of presentation	
		Electronic format	Printed volume
C-15	Religious community by age-group and sex	Cities with population below 1 million	District

II- A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF AGE-SEX DATA BY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

An introduction to age-sex data has already been given in the Age Table C-14 of Census 2001 released on electronic format and a detailed analysis of these data has been presented in the printed publication '*Report and Tables on Age*'. Since no age-sex data was available on religion in C-14, an attempt has been made here to give some highlights of the age data by religious communities at the national level.

Data Highlights

Proportion of population by age-group

The data on proportion of population in five-year age-groups by religious communities at the national level are presented in Statement-1. In terms of these proportions, the data reveal that Muslims and Jains are placed at the opposite ends. The proportion of population up to age 19 years is highest among Muslims and lowest among Jains compared to other religious communities. From age 20 onwards, it is the other way round. Similar type of age distribution is observed among Hindus and Christians, where the proportions in all age-groups below 15 years are relatively higher among Hindus and in age-groups 15 and above, the situation is just the opposite.

Statement-1
Proportion of population in five year age-group by religion, India : 2001

Age-Group	Proportion of population (percentage)						
	All religions	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0-4	10.7	10.5	12.6	9.3	8.6	10.0	7.4
5-9	12.5	12.2	14.7	10.3	10.8	11.0	8.3
10-14	12.1	11.9	13.9	10.9	11.6	12.5	9.6
15-19	9.7	9.6	10.5	9.9	10.3	10.4	9.4
20-24	8.7	8.7	8.6	9.1	9.3	9.0	9.6
25-29	8.1	8.2	7.5	8.6	7.7	8.4	8.6
30-34	7.2	7.3	6.5	7.5	7.2	7.2	8.2
35-39	6.9	7.0	6.1	7.3	7.0	6.8	7.8
40-44	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.9	5.9	5.3	6.9
45-49	4.6	4.7	3.9	5.4	4.9	4.5	5.9
50-54	3.6	3.6	2.9	4.2	3.8	3.4	4.7
55-59	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.5
60-64	2.7	2.8	2.1	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1
65-69	1.9	2.0	1.5	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.8
70-74	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.9
75-79	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.0
80+	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.4	0.7	1.1
ANS	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2

Note: ANS means Age Not Stated.

Based on the figures of the above Statement-1, the distribution of population in few select age-groups is presented in Statement-2 below to have an idea about the proportion of young, adult and old population in each of the religious communities for age-groups 0-14, 15-59 and '60 and above' respectively.

The figures in Statement-2 show that the proportion of population in the age-group 0-14 is highest among Muslims (41.1 percent) followed by Hindus (34.7 percent), Buddhists (33.4 percent), Sikhs (31.0 percent) and Christians (30.4 percent). Jains with 25.2 percent represent for lowest proportion. In case of population in the age-group 15-59 years, which is considered as the working age population, Jains have highest (64.6 percent) proportion followed by Christians (61.0 percent), whereas Muslims represent the lowest proportion (52.9 percent). Hindus and Buddhists have 57-58 percent of population in this age-group and for Sikhs it is 58.9 percent. In case of population in the age-group 60 years and above, the proportion is highest among Jains (9.9 percent) followed by Sikhs (9.8 percent), Buddhists (8.5 percent) and Christians (8.3 percent). For Hindus their proportion is 7.6 percent, whereas Muslims with 5.8 percent represent for lowest proportion of population in age 60 years and above.

Statement-2
Proportion of population in age-groups 0-14, 15-59 and 60 and above by religion and residence, India : 2001

Age-Group	Proportion of population (percentage)						
	All religions	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Total				
0-14	35.3	34.7	41.1	30.4	31.0	33.4	25.2
15-59	56.9	57.4	52.9	61.0	58.9	57.9	64.6
60+	7.4	7.6	5.8	8.3	9.8	8.5	9.9
			Rural				
0-14	37.2	36.5	43.3	32.6	32.0	34.7	27.4
15-59	54.8	55.3	50.5	58.8	57.5	55.1	61.0
60+	7.7	7.9	6.0	8.4	10.2	10.0	11.4
			Urban				
0-14	30.6	29.4	37.3	26.3	28.2	31.4	24.5
15-59	62.4	63.4	57.1	65.2	62.7	62.4	65.8
60+	6.7	6.9	5.4	8.2	8.7	6.0	9.5

Note: * Others include other religious communities

Rural-urban comparison shows that the proportion of population in age-groups 0-14 and above 60 years are relatively more in rural areas among all religious communities whereas proportion of age-group 15-59 is more in urban areas. This type of rural-urban pattern of these three broad age-groups is found

for all the religious communities except for a slight difference in their ranks. Migration of adult population in working age from rural to urban in search of employment may be one of the reasons for such a difference between rural and urban areas.

Median age of population by religion

The median age, which divides the population into two equal sizes, one having the population at ages above the median and the other below is considered to be an appropriate measure of the average age of the population. Depending on the value of the median age, a population may be described as 'young' or 'old'. Population with median age below 20 years are usually classified as 'young' and that having median age 30 years or above are classified as 'old' while those having the median age between 20–29 are termed as 'intermediate'.

Statement-3 shows the median age of the population for each religious community by sex and residence at the national level. The median age of the population of the country as a whole is 22.74 years while that for male and female population of the country is 22.36 years and 23.13 years respectively. There is a wide variation in the median age among different religious communities ranging from a low of 19.16 years for Muslims to a high of 28.27 years for Jains. Among Christians also, the median age is relatively high at 25.24 years followed by Sikhs (24.58). For Hindus and Buddhists, these are 23.21 years and 23.35 years respectively. Thus barring Muslim population, which can be considered as 'young', the population of the remaining religious communities may be considered to fall in the 'intermediate' category.

Statement-3
Median age of population by religion and residence : India-2001

Religion	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Religions	22.74	22.36	23.13	21.98	21.44	22.53	24.38	24.25	24.52
Hindu	23.21	22.82	23.62	22.40	21.86	22.95	25.12	24.97	25.30
Muslim	19.16	19.03	19.31	18.37	18.06	18.73	20.40	20.57	20.20
Christian	25.24	24.94	25.51	24.30	23.94	24.65	26.91	26.82	27.00
Sikh	24.58	23.91	25.37	24.15	23.45	24.92	25.85	25.14	26.58
Buddhist	23.35	22.91	23.82	23.13	22.50	23.82	23.63	23.44	23.84
Jain	28.27	27.70	28.85	27.32	26.39	28.28	28.54	28.08	29.00
Others	21.49	20.83	22.10	21.25	20.49	21.92	23.38	23.20	23.58

Sex wise comparison of median age at the national level shows that it is more for females for each of the religious communities. Among Sikhs and Jains, the differences of median ages between the two sexes have been observed to be

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more than one. Persons living in urban areas have higher median ages (24.38 years) compared to those residing in rural areas (21.98 years) irrespective of sex and religion.

Age specific sex ratio

The sex ratio is usually defined as the number of females per thousand males. The data on sex ratios for different religious communities are presented in Statement-4.

The figures presented in Statement-4 reveal that at the national level, the sex ratio of the Sikh population is lowest (893) followed by Hindus (931) and Muslims (936). Highest sex ratio is observed among Christians (1009) followed by Buddhists (953). However, the sex ratio for age-group 0-4 years, which is an indicator of the likely future trends of sex ratio of the population, shows that barring Hindus and Muslims, it is less than the sex ratio of the total population of the respective religious communities. For example, the sex ratio of the Sikh population in the age-group 0-4 years, which is found to be 780 is less than the sex ratio of the total Sikh population (893). The differences are glaring among the Sikhs and Jains. Contrasting trend has been observed for Muslims. For Hindus, the two sex ratios are same. It is observed that among the religious communities, the sex ratios are least in the younger age groups upto less than 15 years for Sikhs. In the older age-groups (65 and above), the sex ratios are least for Sikhs among all the religious communities.

Statement-4
Sex ratio by age and religion : India-2001

Age-group	Sex Ratio (Number of females per 1000 males)							
	All RC*	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Other RC**
All ages	933	931	936	1009	893	953	940	992
0-4	934	931	957	969	780	944	868	986
5-9	923	921	937	959	815	950	887	959
10-14	902	898	916	969	865	924	914	929
15-19	858	849	877	1003	869	866	910	914
20-24	938	937	921	1054	913	928	887	1096
25-29	1007	1004	1019	1100	970	995	983	1054
30-34	988	983	1001	1047	1032	961	989	1073
35-39	958	954	967	1035	968	1000	996	965
40-44	865	864	846	960	899	869	915	950
45-49	906	905	902	966	891	930	931	924
50-54	843	844	816	928	789	884	875	953
55-59	1036	1035	1053	1024	991	1079	966	1079
60-64	1025	1026	984	1056	1046	1260	1068	1159
65-69	1091	1095	1059	1126	1020	1145	1085	1230
70-74	954	960	913	1076	777	970	1044	1173
75-79	1008	1007	1002	1092	899	1003	1083	1173

Dependency Ratio

The size of the age-group 15-59 years in relation to the rest of the population in the two age-groups , 0-14 and 60 years and above provides an idea about the magnitude of the burden of dependency on it. The estimation of the extent of economic dependence in a population is the main use of working out the dependency ratio. The dependency ratio for young in the age-group 0-14 years and old for the age-group 60 years and above as the number of persons per 1,000 persons in the age-group 15-59 years by religious communities are presented in Statement- 5.

Statement-5
Young, old and total dependency ratios by religion and residence: India-2001

Religion	Dependency ratio per 1000 persons in age 15-59*								
	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Young	Old	Total	Young	Old	Total	Young	Old	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Religions	621	131	752	678	141	819	491	107	599
Hindu	604	133	737	661	143	804	464	108	572
Muslim	778	109	887	857	118	975	653	94	747
Christian	499	137	636	554	143	697	403	125	528
Sikh	526	166	692	556	177	733	450	138	588
Buddhist	577	146	723	629	181	810	504	97	600
Jain	390	154	544	449	188	636	373	144	517
Others	706	118	823	723	116	839	556	131	687

Note : Others include other religious communities.
  *Dependency ratios are calculated as below:
   Young - Number of persons in ages 0-14 per 1000 persons in age 15-59.
   Old   - Number of persons aged 60 and above per 1000 persons in age 15-59.
   Total   - Dependency ratio of young + Dependency ratio of old.

From above Statement, it is seen that Muslims have a higher dependency ratio of 778 than Hindus (604), Buddhists (577) and Sikhs (526). This is partly due to the fact that Muslims have a higher proportion of younger population in the age-group of 0-14 years. Jains have a lowest dependency ratio of 390. However, as far as old dependency ratios are concerned, the positioning of these religious communities is the opposite. Since the major part of the total dependency ratio consists of young dependents (about 70 to 80 percent), the trend of young dependency ratio among different religious communities affects the total dependency ratio also.

The total dependency ratio is higher in rural areas (819) as compared to urban areas (599), and this kind of difference is true for both young and old as well as for the total population ('All Religions'). However, old dependency ratio for 'Others' in urban (131) is higher compared to the same in rural (116).

Child Woman Ratio and proportion of females in age-group 15-49

In the absence of data on fertility, the ratios of children in the age-groups 0-4 and 5-9 to total females in child bearing age-group i.e., 15-49 (and 20-54 for children in the age-group 5-9) known as child woman ratio (CWR), are good indicators to know roughly the size of general fertility ratio and the latest trends. The CWR for age-group 0-4 gives an idea of the latest general fertility ratio and the CWR for 5-9 is the fertility ratio for the preceding five years. It may be mentioned that CWR is, however, not a convenient measure for comparing populations with substantially different levels of infant and child mortality. Keeping this limitation in view, an attempt has been made to compare the CWRs along with the proportion of females in the total female population for each of the religious communities, which are presen ted below in Statement-6.

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Statement-6
Child woman ratio for age 0-4 & 5-9 and proportion of females
to total female population in age 15-49 : India-2001

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Religion	Child woman ratio per 1000 females*						Percent of females in age-group 15-49 to total females		
	Total		Rural		Urban		Total	Rural	Urban
	0-4	5-9	0-4	5-9	0-4	5-9	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All communities	439	578	483	632	337	452	50.6	48.8	55.5
Hindu	429	561	472	615	319	424	50.9	49.1	56.3
Muslim	545	753	606	819	445	639	47.7	45.8	51.3
Christian	340	425	382	482	267	327	54.3	52.4	57.8
Sikh	340	488	362	521	282	404	53.6	52.4	56.9
Buddhist	401	503	446	556	338	429	51.2	48.2	56.1
Jain	269	330	314	388	256	314	56.5	52.7	57.6
Others	492	658	507	674	360	510	48.5	48.1	52.3

Note :   Others include other religious communities.
  *Child Woman Ratios are calculated as:

   CWR-0-4 = Number of children of age 0-4 years per 1000 women age 15-49 years.

   CWR-5-9 = Number of children of age 5-9 years per 1000 women age 20-54 years.

It is observed from Statement-6 that the CWRs for age groups 0-4 and 5-9 are highest for Muslims, these being 545 and 753 respectively and lowest for Jains, these being 269 and 330 respectively. The CWRs among Muslims and Hindus are relatively higher as compared to other religious communities. As anticipated, the CWRs are higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas for all the religious communities. Since the data on fertility, by which the TFR based on Census 2001 can be worked out, has not yet been released, an attempt has been made to examine, how the CWR (fertility ratio) as observed above compares with the TFRs among different religious communities based on Censuses 1981, 1991 and National Family Health Survey (NFHS) –I and II data for 1992-93 and 1998-99 respectively. Statement –7 below presents these details.

Total fertility rate and mean number of children per ever-married woman in the age –group 45-49 years, India.

| Religious Community | Total Fertility Rate (TFR) | | | | Mean number of children per ever –married woman (age-group 45-49 years) | |
	NFHS-I 1992-93	NFHS-II 1998-99	Census '91* (unadjusted)	Census '81* (unadjusted)	Census 2001	Census* 1991
All communities	n.a.	n.a.	2.50	3.60	3.88	4.31
Hindu	3.30	2.78	2.50	3.60	3.77	4.22
Muslim	4.41	3.59	3.20	4.10	4.92	5.18
Christian	2.87	2.44	1.80	2.60	3.32	4.01
Sikh	2.43	2.26	2.00	3.30	3.45	4.18
Buddhist	n.a.	2.13	2.80	3.60	3.87	4.46
Jain	n.a.	1.90	1.70	2.60	2.99	3.89
Others	2.77	2.33	3.50	3.10	3.83	3.81

* Excludes figures for Assam in 1981 and Jammu & Kashmir in 1991, where census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions.

As may be observed, in Censuses 1981 and 1991 TFRs (unadjusted) had been highest for Muslims followed by Buddhists and Hindus. During the NFHS surveys, TFRs of Muslims had been highest followed by Hindus and Christians. The TFRs based on Census 2001 are not available yet. The CWRs (general fertility ratio) based on current census (presented in Statement-6), is suggestive of the fact that TFR in 2001 Census might continue to be higher amongst Muslims as has been seen in earlier Censuses 1981 and 1991. Both CWR and the TFRs in the earlier censuses were highest for Muslims followed by either Hindus or Buddhists. Jains have had the lowest CWR as well as TFRs in all the three censuses. Similarly, the mean number of children ever born per ever-married woman in the age-group 45-49 year by religious communities in the above Statement-7 shows the decline in all the religious communities even though the number is highest in case of Muslims followed by Buddhists and Hindus. Jains have the least mean number. The mean number of children ever born per ever married woman by each of the religious communities based on Census 2001 has been released in the electronic format recently. The mean number of children ever born per woman of age-group 45-49 indicates the completed level of fertility. In Statement –7 above, although the mean number of children for each of the religious communities have been worked out per ever-married woman instead of per woman, the rankings would not be different.

In the Statement-6, the proportion of female population in age-group 15-49 may be seen, which helps to understand the extent of population growth in the near future based on the fertility rates for women in each religious community and the size of female population in the child bearing age (15-49). The proportion

of females in age-group 15-49 is highest among Jains (56.5 percent) followed by Christians (54.3 percent). The proportion of 47.7 percent for Muslims represents the lowest proportion of females in this age-group followed by Hindus (50.9 percent).

III- CONCLUSION

Table C-15, which consists of data on age by religious communities, is a supplementary to the Table C-14, which has been released earlier. This is for the first time that tabulation of age data by religious communities has been made for both the sexes. The main conclusions as emerged from the data available in this Table for different religious communities at the national level are as follows:

❑ Among different religious communities, the distribution of population by five year age-groups show that the proportion of population in younger age-group (0-14 years) is highest among Muslims (41.1 percent) followed by Hindus (34.7 percent) and lowest among Jains (25.2 percent) followed by Christians (30.4 percent). In the higher age- groups (60 years and above), the trend is the reverse, with the proportion of Muslims being lowest (5.8 percent) followed by Hindus (7.6 percent).

❑ The proportion of population in the working age population of 15-59 years is highest among Jains (64.6 percent) followed by Christians (61 percent) and lowest among Muslims (52.9 percent). It varies between 57 to 59 percent among the Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

❑ The data on *Median Age* of population places Jains on the top with highest median age at 28.27 years followed by Christians (25.24 years) and Sikhs (24.58 years). Hindus and Buddhists have roughly the same median ages at 23.21 years and 23.35 years respectively, whereas it is lowest at 19.16 for Muslims. Thus barring Muslim population, which can be considered as 'young', the population of the remaining religious communities may be considered to fall in the 'intermediate' category.

❑ Sex wise comparison of median age shows that females are relatively better than males with higher median age and this is noticed among all the religious communities and more specifically among Sikhs and Jains.

❑ The sex ratio of the Sikh population is lowest (893) followed by Hindus (931) and Muslims (936). Highest sex ratio is observed among Christians (1009) followed by Buddhists (953). However, the sex ratio for age-group 0-4 years, which is an indicator of the likely future trends of sex ratio of the population, shows that barring Hindus and Muslims, it is less than the sex ratio of the total population of the respective religious communities, with the lowest sex ratio of 780 has been observed for Sikhs in this age-group. The differences are glaring among the Sikhs and Jains. Contrasting trend has been observed for Muslims as the sex ratio of the population in the age-group 0-4 years is more than the sex ratio of the corresponding total population of Muslims. For Hindus, the two sex ratios are same. However,

low sex ratios in some older ages should not be taken seriously because such abnormal sex ratios are generally the result of differential rates of misreporting of age for each sex.

❑ Muslims with young dependency ratio of 778 are on the top, followed by Hindus (604) and Buddhists (577) and Sikhs (526). Jains have a lowest dependency ratio of 390 and next to them are Christians (499). However, as far as old dependency ratios are concerned, the positioning of these religions is entirely opposite. The magnitude of dependency ratio is the result of the proportion of persons in the non-working age-group of 0-14 years mentioned in the initial para of this section.

❑ Child –Woman Ratios (CWR) for the age groups 0-4 and 5-9 are highest for Muslims, these being 545 and 753 respectively and lowest for Jains, these being 269 and 330 respectively. The CWRs (fertility ratios) among Muslims and Hindus are relatively higher as compared to other religious communities. Comparison of the values of CWR among different religious communities based on Census 2001 has been made by using the values of TFRs and mean number of children per ever-married woman based on Censuses 1981, 1991 and 2001, NFHS I and II. The data on CWR based on Census 2001 is in line with the TFRs and the mean number of children per ever-married woman based on above sources, these being highest for Muslims followed by Hindus or Buddhists. The values are lowest for Jains. As generally anticipated, the CWRs are higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas for all the religious communities.

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