



Census Micro Data Work Station Gujarat University



The Census Micro Data Work station at the Gujarat University is a collaborative effort by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and the Gujarat University. While the census organization does publish important summary indicators and tables from the data collected, the massive data at the unit level have huge potential for in-depth analysis of social-economic-demographic conditions of India's population. In order to allow the use of this valuable data, it was proposed by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner to permit access to researchers to the micro-data at designated centers in a manner that would not reveal the identities of individuals on whom the information is collected. The first such centre has been established at the Gujarat University with a grant from the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner. The centre is located on the first floor of the Department of Education, University School of Psychology, Education and Philosophy. This has one server and five terminals for use of researchers. Appropriate software for analysis has also been provided. Initially, the 1991 and 2001, 2011 census tables have been loaded on the computers. Gradually, more data would be loaded as these become available and thus be made accessible for research. A Steering Committee consisting of members of the Gujarat University faculty and officers from the Office of the Registrar General oversees the functioning of the Census Micro Data Work station.



Inauguration of Census Micro Data Work Station on 15th December 2014, at the Hands of Hon. Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University, Dr. M.N,Patel. Also seen are Prof.B.V.Patel, Dr.Manoj Shastri (Assistant Coordinator, Census Micro Data Work Station), Shri A.K.Samal (Additional Director,Office of the Registrar General, Govt.of India,Ministry of Home Affaires,New Delhi), Mr. S.D.Baisare, (Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Gujarat)

The Census Micro Data Work station is open to all students and researchers from universities and colleges and research institutions in India. The centre will be open from 08:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on all working days of the university. The users could register in the Census Micro Data Work station and convey to the Census Data Manager the specific requirements of tables. On checking availability, the tables would be released on the terminal for access by the user. The Data Manager could guide the users on availability of tables. The users could carry out the analysis with the help of the software loaded on the system. In case the specific tables are not available in the repository, the user could make a request to the coordinator who will forward this to the Steering Committee. The Committee will examine the feasibility of preparing and releasing the tables and such tables that can be prepared without revealing individual identities would be provided.

Objective

The objective of setting up micro data station is to permit qualified researchers optimum use of anonymized sample micro data from census for in-depth research. Workstation enables the researchers to have access to micro data which is not published by census. Interestingly, this facility would be available to all including those who are not part of the University system.

Confidentiality

The Census Act 1948 stipulates that the information given by any respondent at the census is to be treated as confidential. Therefore, it is important to protect the confidentiality by masking the location and a few sensitive fields. After anonymising the record level data, the data set is made available for in depth research at workstations.

Restrictions

Workstation does not permit the researchers to take out or copy the data. The researcher would be allowed to process the sample micro data using the software available in the workstation and generate the tables for use. Only computer print out of the tables so generated will be allowed to be taken out of the work station.

Working

The intended user of workstation has to submit a proposal to the Steering Committee stating details of his research project and requirements. The steering committee will meet regularly to examine the research proposals received at the workstation and accord permission for use, if found suitable. The facilities available at the workstation will only be open to researchers whose research proposals have been accepted and approved by the steering committee.

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