

Various Socio-Economic Characteristics of Mongolian Population- Important Findings from Mongolian Demographic Survey

R. N. Pandey

UN- Technical Adviser

Population Teaching and Research Center

National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar

Introduction

Mongolia, one of the oldest country in the world, is situated in the heart of the Asian continent. It has great geographical diversity. The North-West region has mountain ranges and ridges, forest, big lakes and rivers. Almost 75% of the whole Gobi Desert is in the south region of the Mongolia. Most of the other land is semi-desert grassland. The Mongolian climate is extremely continental with 7-8 month of a mean temperature below freezing point. Mongolia is divided into 21 aimaks and three big cities with Ulaanbaatar as the Capital. It has an geographical area of 1,566,500 square kms and 2,4 million people. The Mongolian Population is largely homogeneous, with Mongol speaking people constituting about 95% . The only non-Mongol group, about 5 % of the population, are the Kazaks living in the far West. A Chinese Minority lives in Ulaanbaatar.

The population growth in the country was extremely low during the first five decades of the present century. However, because of the improvement in the living standard and the availability of modern health care system, the population increased almost three times during 1950 - 1990. It's density, 1.4 person per square km, is one of the lowest in the world. However, almost one third of the population lives in three major cities, Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Erdenet. The remaining population is widely spread in rural areas, but unevenly concentrated along the river valleys.

After Russia, Mongolia became the second Communist Country in the world. Till 1989, it was having centrally planned economy. However, after 1989 it began to experience transformation to market economy. This transformation resulted into a number of social and economic changes for the Mongolian people. Because of the troubles experienced during the transition period, their perception about the desired family size, use of contraceptive methods, overall reproductive intentions, etc. have also undergone sea change. These changes in perceptions have also affected the levels of various demographic parameters. In this paper an attempt has been made to present the important findings about the household characteristics in Mongolia as available from the first large scale Demographic Survey in Mongolia conducted by the Population Teaching and Research Center at the Mongolian National University during Oct-Nov. 1994. Wherever feasible, comparison have been also made with the similar data available from other sources such as Census and Vital Registration.

II. Background information about the fertility and mortality in Mongolia

When the Mongolian Peoples Republic was founded, the main goal of the Government was to transform the country from a traditional nomadic society into a modern industrial- agrarian one. Therefore, a policy of population expansion was considered necessary keeping in view the small size of the existing population, the vastness of the territory and the large potential for development of other resources. Consequently, a strong pro-natalist policy was adopted with limited availability of contraceptives and giving generous incentives to women who attempted to reach their maximum fecundity. In spite of these pro-natalist policy, fertility began to decline by the middle of 1970s which got increased momentum during 1980s. In 1989, Mongolia went through a transition from centrally planned economy to the market economy which has also affected considerably the fertility scenario in the country. The present population policy, adopted by the Parliament recently, though pro-natalist in orientation also emphasises the improvement in the quality of life by emphasising childbearing starting not at young ages and not continuing beyond 30 years of age as well as birth intervals being reasonably long. In addition, legal barrier to the import, distribution and use of contraceptives have been removed. Another development during the transition was the legalisation of first trimester abortions in 1989.

Like many other developing countries of the world, Mongolia also experienced a substantial reduction in mortality soon after the beginning of second half of the present century. As per an estimate, the crude death rate of the country during 1940s was 30 per 1000. It declined from 12.3 during 1960s to 6.38 in 1994. The age pattern of mortality is characterised by high infant and child mortality. The main causes of infant deaths are respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases. Mortality at older ages is comparatively high, specially for males. Correspondingly, mortality during prime adult ages is relatively low for males but comparatively high for females, mainly due to maternal mortality. Despite the availability of pre-natal care and large proportion (97%) of deliveries in hospitals, the maternal mortality rate has remained relatively high at the level of 14 per 10,000 live birth during 1985-89 which decreased to 12 in 1991 and then increased suddenly to 22 in 1992. The increase was higher in the rural areas, most probably due to deterioration in the maternity services. However, it is decreasing continuously since then and stood at 10.1 in 1995.

III. Sources of data

The data used in this paper are that collected in a large scale demographic survey conducted by the PTRC during October - November, 1994. The survey covered 1760 households spread over 5 provinces and the capital city, Ulaanbaatar. The data collected related to past and present levels and patterns of fertility and mortality, fertility preferences, knowledge, attitude and practice of family planning methods, etc. The sample design adopted for the survey was a multi-stage stratified, clustered and random sample of households and individual in urban and rural areas. Stratification was done by residence (remote rural, some center, aimak center and Ulaanbaatar), age and sex using a proportional method. This in combination with random selection procedure made the survey a representative sample of population living in Mongolia.

There was a separate household questionnaire canvassed in the Survey asking details about the age, sex, education, marital status, working status, possession of animals and other consumer goods, housing condition, consumption of meat and butter, etc. The analysis of some of the data collected in the household questionnaire.

IV. Results

Household composition

The following table presents the data on the household composition of the de jure population by different characteristics.

Table.1: Household composition: percent distribution of households, household size, according to residence, Mongolia 1994					
Household characteristic	Remote Rural	Som Centre	Aimag Centre	Ulaan Baatar	Total
Household head					
Male	95.5	91.2	93.0	89.4	92.2
Female	4.5	8.8	7.0	10.6	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean age of household head	36.8	36.2	37.9	42.0	38.8
Number of usual members					
1	3.0	4.8	1.6	0.6	2.0
2	7.7	2.2	4.7	2.2	4.3
3	14.4	9.6	12.2	12.6	12.6
4	19.8	14.0	20.0	24.5	20.8
5	18.1	19.7	20.5	17.8	18.8
6	14.2	17.0	14.4	17.4	15.8
7	11.2	14.4	12.8	11.2	12.0
8	4.1	9.2	7.9	6.2	6.5
9	3.7	4.8	3.6	3.4	3.7
10	2.8	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.2
11 +	1.1	2.6	0.7	1.8	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size	5.0	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3
Number of households	464	228	443	624	1759

The data show that households are predominantly headed by males. Only eight percent of all households are headed by females. The survey data suggest that female headed households are two times more frequent in Ulaanbaatar than in remote rural areas, which can be explained by divorces, which are more common in urban areas than they are in urban areas.

Mongolian households tend to be rather large with an average of five to six persons living together in a single household. The typical household in Mongolia has an

average of 5.3 persons, but about 39 percent of all households have four or fewer members. The breakdown by place of residence shows that differences between the average family size are small. They differ from 5.0 in Remote Rural areas to 5.6 in Som Centres. The lower household size in the rural areas were found in spite of the higher fertility in rural areas observed in the survey. One of the possible reason for this may be the fact that it is easier to find a ger to live in rural areas, than to find an apartment in urban areas. So, in urban areas more persons live in the same house.

Age-sex distribution of the household population

Table.2 shows the age distribution of the de facto male and female population enumerated in the DSM and sex ratios by five-year age groups. Figure.1 shows that Mongolia's population is still relatively young. The median age of the de facto population is 19.2 years, the mean age is 22.6 years. Some age misreporting is evident from an examination of the age distributions. The sex ratios further help to highlight some of the errors in the data. The overall sex ratio for Mongolia is 91 males for 100 females. The sex ratios for the population as a whole are fairly stable up to age 45-49, but rather erratic thereafter.

Table 2: Percent distribution of the de-facto population by 5 years age group, according to residence and sex, Mongolia, 1994

Age group	Total	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Age Group	Total	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
0	2.0	1.9	2.1	0.84	50-54	2.4	3	2	1.32
1-4	10.1	10.3	9.8	0.96	55-59	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.93
5-9	12.9	13.8	12.1	1.05	60-64	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.42
10-14	11.2	11.7	10.8	0.99	65-69	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.73
15-19	13.7	12.9	14.5	0.81	70-74	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.00
20-24	11.3	10.2	12.3	0.76	75-79	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.62
25-29	10.1	10.1	10.2	0.91	80-84	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.31
30-34	6.9	6.8	7.1	0.88	85 +	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.00
35-39	5.7	5.6	5.7	0.9					
40-44	4.7	4.9	4.6	0.96	Total	100.0	100	100	0.91
45-49	4.3	4.2	4.3	0.89	Number	9263	4425	4838	9263

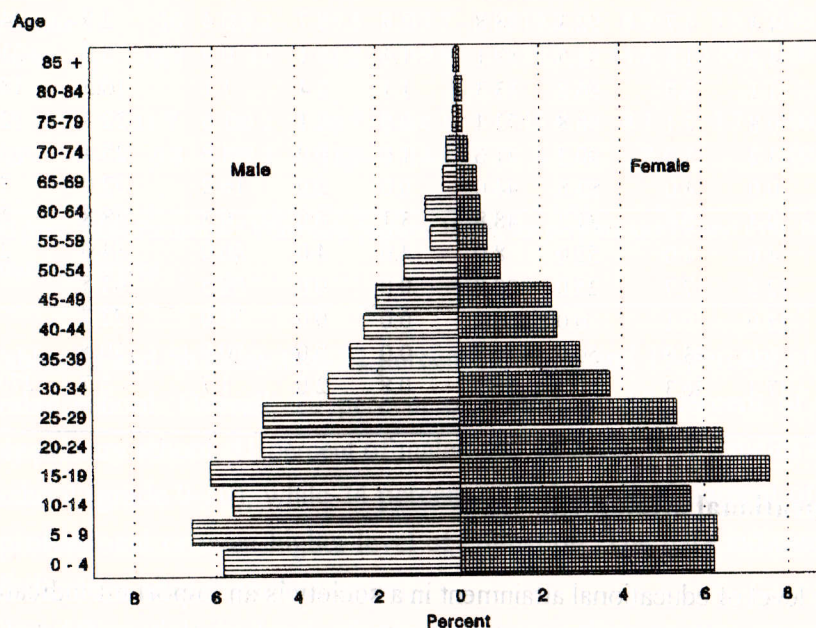
The overall distribution of the population compares well with that of the 1989 census and previous censuses (see table 3). The percentages of the age groups 10-14 and 15-19 are respectively smaller and larger than in previous censuses. The percentage of the population below age 5 is smaller in the DSM than in other sources. This shift in age contribution can be attributed partly to a reduction in fertility levels in the recent past. It

may also be associated with the reported age of school-going children; parents may age their children younger or older than they actually are, to have a reason for not sending them to school. The percentage of the total population that is under age 15 is also declining (36% in the DSM, 42% in the 1989 census, and 44% in the 1979 census).

Table .3: Percent distribution of the population by age group, DSM 1994, 1989, 1979, 1969, 1963 and 1956 census

Age group	DSM 1994	1989 census	1979 census	1969 census	1963 census	1956 census
0	2.0	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.5	2.6
1-4	10.1	12.5	13.0	13.3	13.3	10.0
5-9	12.9	13.5	14.7	16.2	13.7	10.5
10-14	11.2	12.5	13.0	11.6	8.6	7.3
15-19	13.7	10.8	11.6	7.6	7.0	9.0
20-24	11.3	9.6	8.2	5.9	7.1	8.2
25-29	10.1	8.8	5.8	6.5	6.9	7.6
30-34	6.9	6.6	4.8	5.4	6.3	6.9
35-39	5.7	4.5	4.8	5.4	5.6	6.7
40-44	4.7	3.4	4.1	4.2	4.7	5.6
45-49	4.3	3.3	3.7	4.2	5.1	6.1
50-54	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.6	4.3	4.9
55-59	1.4	2.5	2.7	3.6	4.1	4.6
60-64	1.4	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.5	3.8
65-69	0.8	1.5	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.7
70-74	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.9
75-79	0.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0
80-84	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
85 +	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Figure 1: Population pyramid of Mongolia



Marital status

The Survey gathered information on the marital status of all household members aged 15 years and over. Examination of the marital status data for the de facto population reveals that almost all females and males get married by their thirties. However, women tend to get married somewhat earlier than men. For example, 43 percent of women aged 20-24 years are currently married while 32 percent of men in the same age group are married. The percentage of divorced females was found to be higher in all the age group. Even in 15-19, 0.3% of the women were divorced as compare to 5% of the women married in this age group. Females exhibit an earlier transition than males to widowhood or to being divorced or separated.

The earlier transition is also due to the age difference between husbands and wives and to higher male mortality in the older age groups. More than 62 percent of all women age 65 and over are widows, whereas only 31 percent of men in that age group are widowers.

Table 4: Percent distribution of the de facto household population by marital status, according to age and sex, Mongolia 1994

Age group	Single / Living together		Married		Separated / Divorced		Widowed		Number	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-19	98.5	94.6	1.5	5.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	530	662
20-24	70.1	55.7	31.5	42.6	0.4	1.6	0.0	0.2	448	591
25-29	23.1	20.5	76.2	76.6	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	445	488
30-34	14.3	9.7	84.7	84.1	1.0	3.8	0.0	2.4	300	340
35-39	4.4	4.7	92.3	88.8	2.8	3.7	0.4	2.9	248	276
40-44	4.2	1.8	93.5	89.1	1.4	4.1	0.9	5.0	215	221
45-49	1.1	3.8	96.8	83.3	1.1	2.4	1.1	10.5	186	209
50-54	0.8	2.1	96.8	73.4	0.8	2.1	1.6	22.3	124	94
55-59	3.2	3.0	90.3	71.6	1.6	0.0	4.8	25.4	62	67
60-64	0.0	4.0	83.8	44.0	0.0	0.0	16.2	52.0	74	50
65-69	9.4	2.3	81.3	48.8	3.1	0.0	6.3	48.8	32	43
70-74	4.0	4.0	52.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	40.0	84.0	25	25
75-79	12.5	7.7	25.0	30.8	0.0	0.0	62.5	61.5	8	13
80-84	25.0	9.1	0.0	18.2	0.0	0.0	75.0	72.7	4	11
85 +	0.0	33.3	50.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.5	6	6
Total	37.1	36.3	60.4	55.9	0.8	2.0	1.7	5.7	2707	3096

Educational attainment

The level of educational attainment in a society is an important indicator of social development. Educational attainment has also been shown to have a significant effect on

fertility behaviour, contraceptive use, infant and child mortality, morbidity and issues related to family health and hygiene. Tables 5a and 5b present the distribution of the household population aged five and over by level of education, according to sex, age, place of

Table 5a: Percent distribution of the de facto male household population age five and over by highest level of education attended, according to selected background characteristics, Mongolia, 1994

Male									
Background characteristic	No education	Primary School	Grade 0-8	Grade 9-10	Profes. school	Higher	Missing	Total	Num. of persons
Age group									
5-9	48.7	26.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.2	100.0	557
10-14	15.5	53.8	29.5	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	100.0	509
15-19	2.1	15.3	57.4	18.5	5.3	1.1	0.4	100.0	563
20-24	0.4	3.8	33.1	36.6	21.4	4.6	0.0	100.0	453
25-29	2.9	3.4	27.5	28.2	28.9	8.9	0.2	100.0	447
30-34	2.0	4.3	25.1	21.1	30.4	16.7	0.3	100.0	299
35-39	3.2	13.3	28.5	10.8	28.9	15.3	0.0	100.0	249
40-44	2.3	17.8	22.0	9.3	32.2	16.4	0.0	100.0	214
45-49	3.8	18.8	17.2	7.5	25.8	26.9	0.0	100.0	186
50-54	4.0	30.4	19.2	1.6	16.8	27.2	0.8	100.0	125
55-59	8.1	30.6	12.9	6.5	17.7	24.2	0.0	100.0	62
60-64	18.9	27.0	12.2	5.4	9.5	27.0	0.0	100.0	74
65 +	26.1	42.5	4.1	2.7	13.7	11.0	0.0	100.0	73
Residence									
Remote Rural	16.6	31.5	31.1	7.2	8.4	0.7	4.39	100.0	980
Som Centre	7.4	22.5	35.4	11.9	12.7	5.7	4.49	100.0	512
Aimag Centre	10	19.2	25.5	13.7	19.2	8.9	3.5	100.0	915
Ulaanbaatar	10.9	12	21.2	19.9	18.7	14.2	3.06	100.0	1404
Total	11.7	20.2	26.7	14.1	15.4	8.3	3.7	100.0	3811
Total SSO¹	9.8	29.7	31.9	14.4	6.1	8		100.0	

¹: Derived from State Statistical Office data (census 1989), for persons age 10 and over. No education includes missing persons.

Tables 5a and 5b show that 12 percent of males and 10 percent of females have never attended school. Overall, 20 percent of males and 18 percent of females have attended only primary school, 41 percent of males and 44 percent of females have attended secondary school (grade 0-10), while 24 percent of males and 25 percent of females have reached a professional or even higher level of education. The data indicate that women received a little more education than males.

The differentials in level of education according to age group provide an

indication of the development in the educational attainment of the population over time. The effect of the economic incentive to keep children at home, caused by the privatization of herds, already seems to be recognizable.

Table 5b: Percent distribution of the de facto female household population age five and over by highest level of education attained, according to selected background characteristics, Mongolia 1994

Background characteristic	Female						Total	Num. of persons	
	No edu- cation	Primary School	Grade 0-8	Grade 9-10	Profes. School	Higher			Missing
Age group									
5-9	42.5	33.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	23.4	100.0	529
10-14	11.6	47.3	40.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	514
15-19	1.2	8.1	49.0	35.2	5.0	1.5	0.0	100.0	676
20-24	0.8	1.3	22.3	43.7	26.8	5.0	0.0	100.0	597
25-29	2.4	2.4	17.6	30.6	33.5	13.2	0.2	100.0	493
30-34	1.8	5.6	17.9	24.4	33.2	17.1	0.0	100.0	340
35-39	1.8	14.1	25.0	12.7	28.3	17.8	0.4	100.0	276
40-44	2.3	21.2	18.0	11.3	31.1	15.3	0.9	100.0	222
45-49	1.0	23.4	20.1	13.4	28.7	13.4	0.0	100.0	209
50-54	11.6	23.2	13.7	4.2	24.2	23.2	0.0	100.0	95
55-59	17.9	40.3	10.4	4.5	17.9	9.0	0.0	100.0	67
60-64	18.3	44.9	12.2	0.0	8.2	14.3	2.0	100.0	49
65 +	53.5	32.3	3.0	1.0	8.1	2.0	0.0	100.0	99
Residence									
Remote Rural	12.5	28.2	34.1	13.1	7.8	0.4	3.9	100.0	919
Som Centre	9.5	19.5	29.3	16.7	16.7	4.7	3.5	100.0	569
Aimag Centre	8.4	16.6	22.1	20.6	21.5	6.9	3.9	100.0	1085
Ulaanbaatar	9.5	12.7	17.6	24.7	20.5	12.9	1.9	100.0	1593
Total	9.9	18.1	24.0	20.0	17.5	7.5	3.1	100.0	4166
Total SSO¹	13.8	31.2	24.0	15.4	9.6	5.9		100.0	

¹: Derived from State Statistical Office data (census 1989) for persons age 10 and over. No education includes missing persons

The findings further indicate that 17 percent of males and 13 percent of females in Remote Rural areas have received no education. For a developing country this is really a low figure. But the future will reveal if these figures remain this low. For both males and females, the urban-rural differentials are most pronounced at the highest educational levels. The urban-rural difference is probably due to a lack of facilities or their inaccessibility in rural areas. Another possibility is that those who received the highest education migrated to urban areas where job opportunities for higher educated people are better (braindrain).

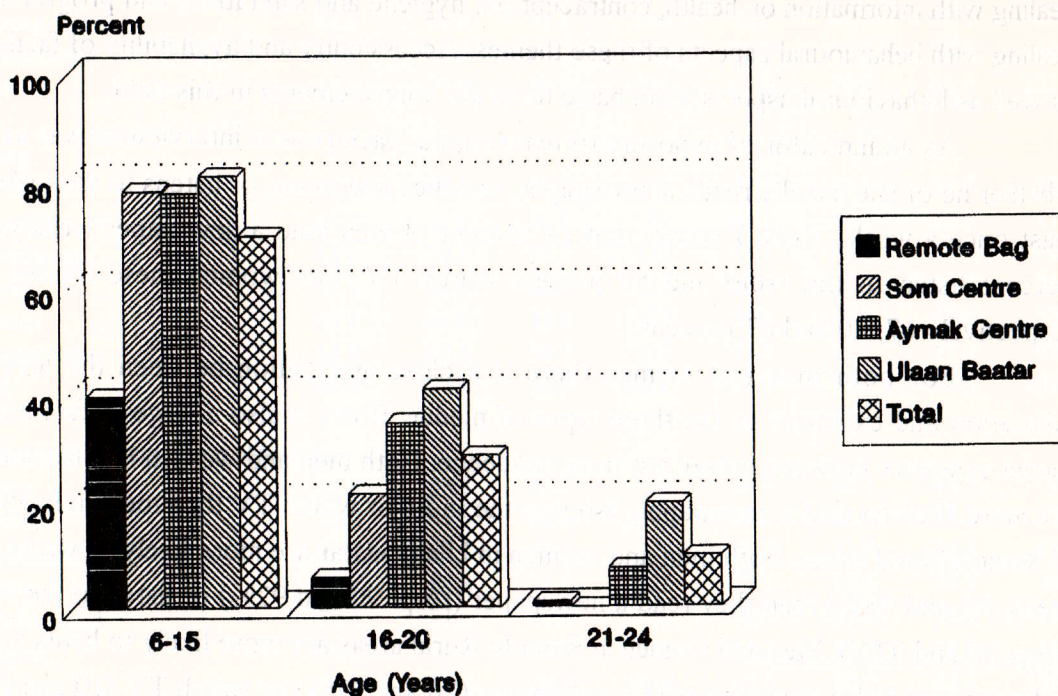
The most striking difference with the SSO data is that women seemed to have had

more and higher education in 1994 than they did in 1989; 15.5 percent of the women in 1989 attended professional or higher schools, compared to 25.0 percent in 1994. To a lesser extent the same is true for men (14.1 and 23.7 percent respectively).

Table 6: Percentage of the de facto household population 6-24 years of age currently enrolled in school by age, sex and residence. Mongolia 1994

Age group	Male					Female					Total				
	Remote Rural	Som Centre	Aimag Centre	Ulaan Baatar	Total	Remote Rural	Som Centre	Aimag Centre	Ulaan Baatar	Total	Remote Rural	Som Centre	Aimag Centre	Ulaan Baatar	Total
6-24	17.4	55.6	51.3	55.8	44.7	27.1	54.3	55.7	60.8	50.9	22.2	54.9	53.8	58.5	48.0
6-15	29.6	80.6	75.2	77.9	65.0	52.3	76.1	80.2	84.0	74.8	39.6	78.2	77.8	81.0	69.9
6-10	25.9	63.4	53.6	52.5	47.1	37.8	50.6	56.6	58.0	51.8	31.0	56.4	55.1	55.2	49.4
11-15	26.5	81.7	82.9	89.0	70.8	57.3	88.9	88.5	94.0	84.1	40.5	85.4	85.9	91.5	77.5
16-24	2.1	10.2	17.0	27.3	16.5	5.1	14.7	26.3	33.8	22.9	3.7	12.6	22.6	30.8	20.0
16-20	3.6	17.9	26.2	36.3	23.8	7.4	24.1	40.0	44.8	32.1	5.7	21.4	34.6	40.9	28.4
21-24	0.0	0.0	5.9	15.3	7.1	1.9	0.0	8.2	22.6	11.6	1.0	0.0	7.2	19.5	9.6

Figure 2: School enrolment by age and place of residence



DSM 1994

The DSM also asked about the current status of school attendance for all persons under age 25. Table 3.6 presents the percentage of the de facto male and female population (age 6-24) who are enrolled in school by age, sex and place of residence. Overall,

almost 70 percent of all school age children (age 6-15) were currently enrolled in school. These figures were 65 percent for males and 75 percent for females. The enrolment rate is much higher for urban cities (Ulaanbaatar 81 percent) than for rural areas (Remote Rural 40 percent) (see figure 2).

Since the concentration of the population is relatively high in urban areas, there is a greater incentive for both public and private agencies to invest in setting up schools. The increased school enrolment in urban areas is likely to be a function of the greater availability and easy accessibility of educational institutions in general as well as higher educational aspirations for children in urban areas.

At age 16-20, almost 3 in 10 children were still attending school. Table 3.6 shows the greater enrolment of female than male children at all ages. The sex differentials are more pronounced in rural than in urban areas. The sex differential first increases with age, reaches its top at age 11-15 and then decreases, but remains significant.

Exposure to mass media

Information on exposure to mass media is important for present and future programs dealing with information, education and communication. For example programs dealing with information on health, contraception, hygiene and sanitation, and programmes dealing with behavioural aspects of these themes. Accessibility and availability of facilities as well as behavioural aspects form basic tools for improvements in this field.

As an indicator of exposure to mass media, each person interviewed was asked whether he or she usually reads a newspaper, watches television, or listens to the radio at least once a week. Table 7 shows that 61 percent of men read a newspaper weekly, 79 percent listen to the radio and 59 percent watch TV. For women these figures are respectively 67, 80 and 63 percent.

For both men and women there is a close association between the level of education and exposure to the three types of media. There is also a large differential in media exposure between urban and rural residence. Both men and women in Ulaanbaatar are more likely to read a newspaper, listen to the radio or watch TV than men and women in Remote Rural areas. Both men and women in Ulaanbaatar are more likely to watch TV (resp. 95 and 98%) than they read a newspaper (resp. 90 and 92%) or listen to the radio (resp. 90 and 92%). Men and women in Remote Rural areas are more likely to listen to the radio (65 and 64%) than they read a newspaper (20 and 27%) or watch TV (10 and 9%). This difference between urban and rural may be explained by the lack of electricity and the lack of access to these facilities. As has been mentioned before, listening to the radio in Remote Rural areas also depends on the availability of batteries.

As expected both men and women in Ulaanbaatar are more exposed to all types of media than men and women in other aimags. People in the Hentii and Hovd Aimag are the least exposed to mass media.

Table 7: Percentage of men and women who usually read a newspaper, watch television, or listen to the radio at least once a week, by selected background characteristics, Mongolia 1994

Background characteristic:	Male				Female			
	News- paper	Radio	Tele- vision	Number of men	News- paper	Radio	Tele- vision	Number of women
Age group								
15-19	57.3	78.2	62.3	239	68.0	81.0	67.1	463
20-24	59.4	76.8	55.8	224	65.7	80.3	61.5	431
25-29	61.9	79.9	58.0	189	69.6	75.6	64.8	381
30-34	64.7	75.9	58.6	133	74.3	82.2	66.3	276
35-39	63.7	82.4	58.2	91	62.8	79.2	56.8	183
40-44	62.5	83.3	59.7	72	60.8	83.1	60.1	148
45-49	58.9	83.6	60.3	73	58.3	79.9	62.6	139
Total	60.6	79.0	58.9	1021	67.0	79.9	63.6	2021
Residence								
Remote Rural	19.8	65.0	10.3	283	27.3	64.0	8.5	528
Som Centre	58.8	61.0	41.2	136	68.0	67.4	57.4	291
Aimag Centre	68.8	90.0	74.3	269	74.3	87.9	78.1	536
Ulaanbaatar	89.5	89.5	94.9	333	92.2	91.6	98.3	666
Total	60.6	79.0	58.9	1021	67.0	79.9	63.6	2021
Aimag								
Arhangai	45.9	78.2	58.8	170	47.3	76.1	56.7	330
Dundgov	46.0	81.6	28.7	87	66.5	84.1	35.3	170
Uverhangai	49.1	78.0	55.5	173	53.7	76.9	54.9	350
Hovd	44.9	62.3	25.4	138	55.9	63.1	28.2	263
Hentii	45.7	69.0	22.6	116	56.2	72.3	48.1	235
Ulaanbaatar	89.3	89.6	94.7	337	91.8	91.5	97.9	673
Total	60.6	79.0	58.9	1021	67.0	79.9	63.6	2021
Highest educational level attended								
None	34.6	53.8	42.3	26	28.6	60.7	42.9	28
Primary	18.0	61.0	22.0	100	29.1	63.1	27.9	179
Grade 0-8	49.7	77.2	50.5	372	51.4	71.8	44.4	556
Grade 9-10	76.4	85.8	71.6	225	77.3	83.6	74.1	568
Professional	72.4	81.0	67.9	210	78.7	87.0	75.7	493
Higher	95.1	93.8	87.7	81	96.4	95.3	95.3	169
Total	60.5	79.0	58.7	1014	67.0	80.0	63.4	1995

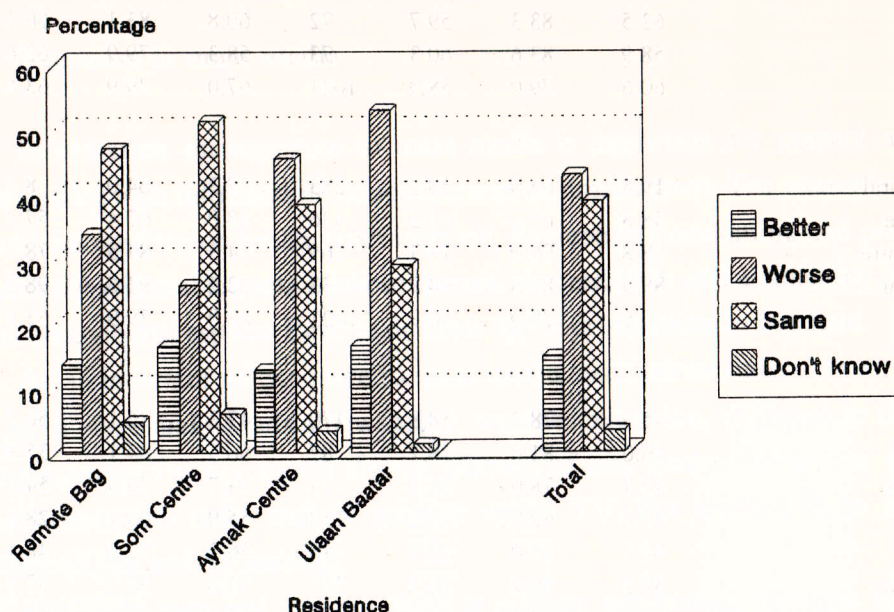
Perceptions of economic situation

The DSM also contained a number of questions on the perception of households of the current economic situation; Do you think your present standard of living is better,

worse or the same as it was before 1989, and in 1993? Would you say that your present income is adequate for the things an average household needs, or worse than that?

Figure 3 shows the results for the present standard of living compared to before 1989. Only a small part of the (15 percent) estimate their present standard of living better than it was before 1989. With an increasing degree of urbanization, fewer people think that their situation is the same, they feel that their present standard of living has worsened.

Figure 3: Percentage of households, by the present level of living compared to 1989, Mongolia 1994



Compared to a year before the survey (figure 4) the situation has worsened especially for people in urban areas. In rural areas there does not seem to be a change in the perception of the situation.

Figure 5 shows whether the present level of income is adequate for the things a household needs or not. On the whole 50 percent of the households perceive their level of income as adequate. Almost all the rest say that their level of income is not adequate for household needs. This fifty-fifty distribution is especially true for Ulaanbaatar. In Remote Rural areas more people perceive their level of income as adequate (59 percent).

Figure 4: Percentage of households, by the present level of living compared to 1993, Mongolia 1994

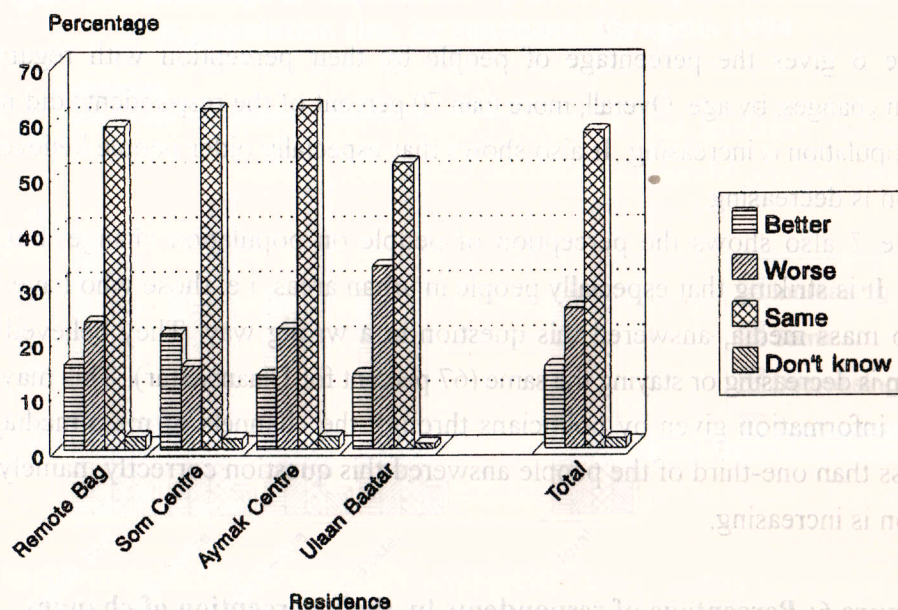
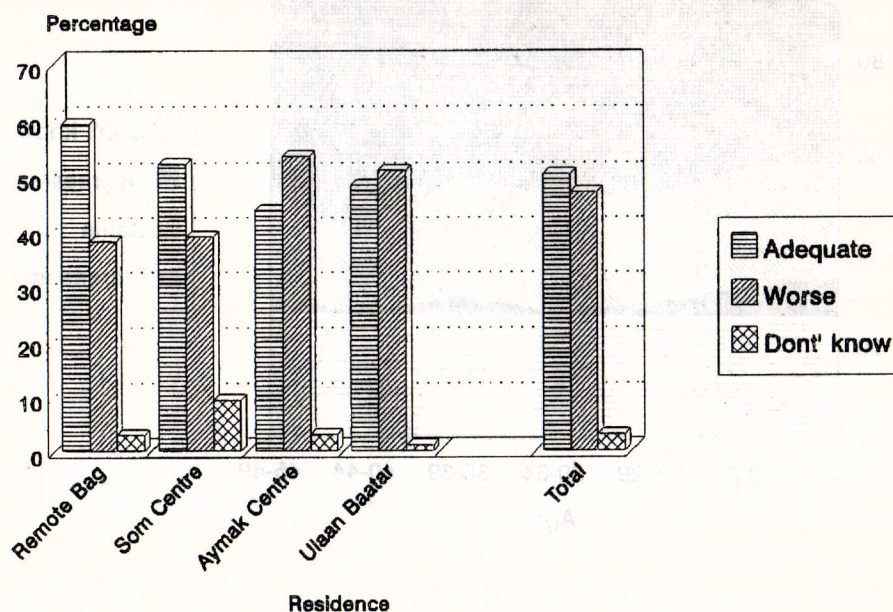


Figure 5: Percentage of households by the present level of living for household needs, Mongolia 1994



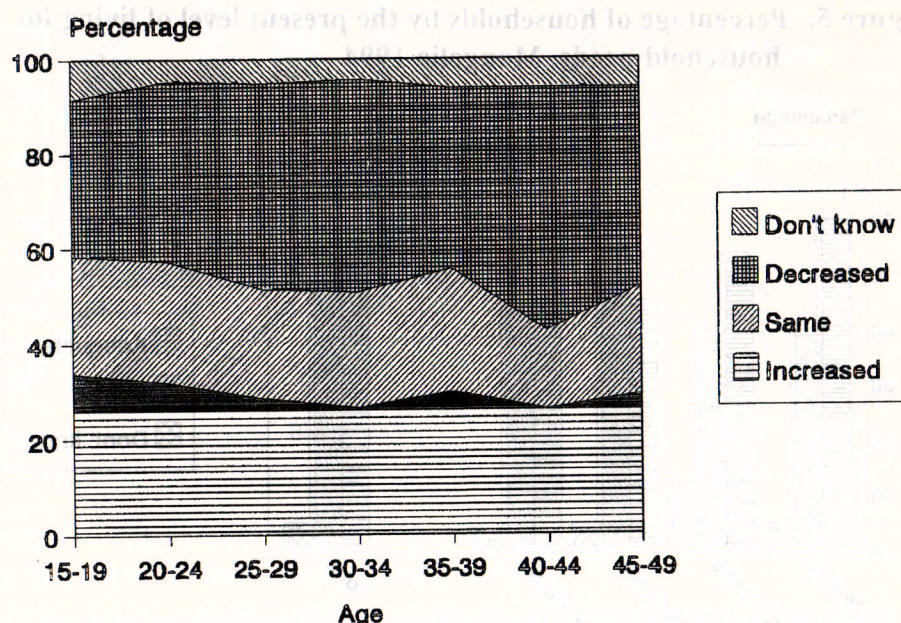
Thus, with an increasing degree of urbanization the perception of the people concerning their standard of living is decreasing. People living in rural areas feel relatively better off. They felt the effect of the political and economic changes that happened to Mongolia to a smaller extent.

Perception of population change

Figure 6 gives the percentage of people by their perception with regard to the population changes, by age. Overall, more than 70 percent of the respondents did not know that the population is increasing. It also shows that especially older people believe that the population is decreasing.

Figure 7 also shows the perception of people on population change, but now by residence. It is striking that especially people in urban areas, i.e. those who have the most access to mass media, answered this question in a wrong way. They believed that the population is decreasing or staying the same (67 percent for Ulaanbaatar). This may indicate incorrect information given by politicians through the channels of mass media. On the whole, less than one-third of the people answered this question correctly, namely that the population is increasing.

Figure 6: Percentage of respondents by their perception of changes in population size, by age, Mongolia 1994



Those persons who answered the question on population change with the right answer were asked whether they believed the population was increasing too slowly, at the right rate or too rapidly.

Figure 8 shows the perception of people on the growth rate by age. It shows that almost half of the people believed the population is growing at too slow a rate, while only 16 percent believes it is growing too fast. Especially people in urban areas believe that the population is growing too slowly, while people in rural areas more often state that the

population is growing too rapidly.

Figure 7: Percentage of respondents by their perception on changes in population size, by residence, Mongolia 1994

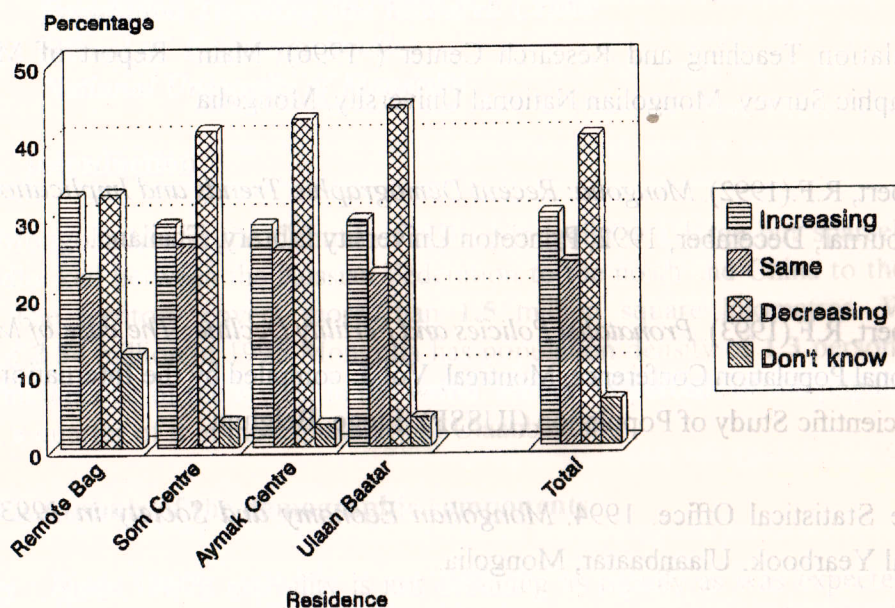
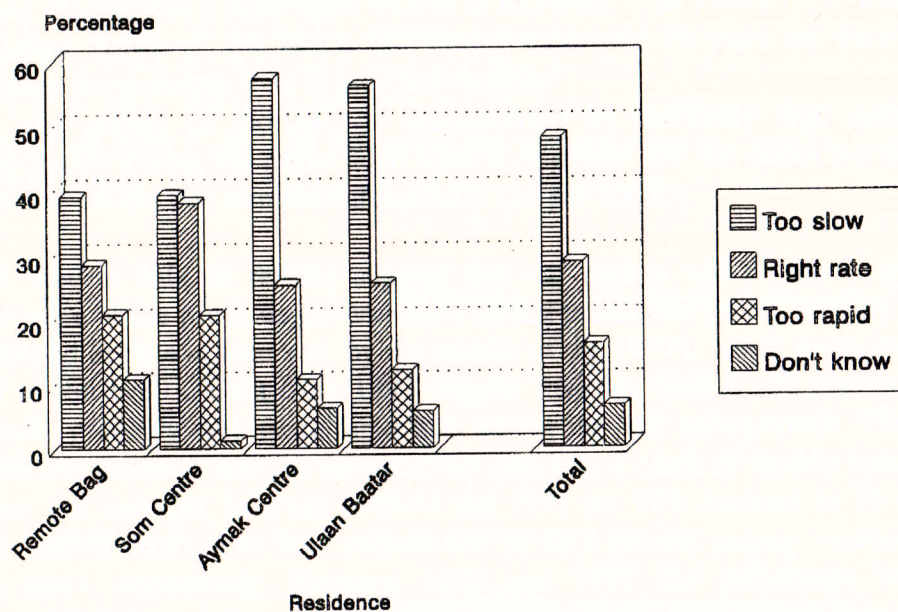


Figure 8: Percentage of respondents by their perception on the growth rate of the population, by residence, Mongolia 1994



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