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**QUESTION:** Explain the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) as a source of demographic data. This should include:

- a) The survey universe
- b) Compare and contrast the subject matter and detail covered in the ZDHS with the census of population.

The Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) is a national multi-subject type of survey as it covers many subjects in one round of the survey. The 2018 ZDHS was implemented by the government of the republic of Zambia through the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) in collaboration with Ministry of Health (MOH). Zambia has successfully conducted six (6) Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) since its independence. The 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) is the sixth in a series of demographic and health surveys in Zambia. Previous surveys were conducted in the year 1992, 1996, 2001-2002, 2007, 2013-14.

The 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) is a nationwide survey with a nationally representative sample of approximately 13,625 selected households. The survey covered all the de jure household members, all women in the age 15-49 years, all men aged 15-59, and all children aged 0-5 years who were usual members of the selected households or who spent the night before the survey (de facto) in the selected households. The sampling frame used for the 2018 ZDHS was the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. Zambia has 10 provinces and each is subdivided into districts, each district into constituencies which are further subdivided into wards. In addition to these administrative units, during the 2010 Census of Population and Housing each ward was divided into convenient areas referred to as Census Supervisory Areas (CSAs) each CSA was in turn divided into enumeration areas (EAs). Worth noting is that, these subdivisions were done in consideration of the changes in provinces, districts and constituencies.

The Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) provides an opportunity to inform policy makers and provide data for planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national health programmes. The primary objective of the 2018 ZDHS was to provide up-to-date estimates of basic demographic and health indicators. The survey was designed to provide the government with information on; fertility trends, maternal and child health, family planning use, ownership and use of mosquito nets as part of the national malaria eradication programmes and also on Health-related matters such as breastfeeding and knowledge of HIV/AIDS and the sexually transmitted diseases. The study includes several key fertility rates such as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR). For example, the survey indicated that the total fertility rate (TFR) in Zambia was 4.7 children per woman. The TFR was lower in urban areas with 3.4 children per woman than in rural areas with 5.8 children per woman.

The study provided information on infant and child mortality rates. Information on infant and child mortality is relevant to a demographic assessment of a country's population and is an important indicator of the country's socioeconomic development and quality of life. It can also help identify children who may be at higher risk of death and lead to strategies to reduce this risk, such as promoting birth spacing. Childhood mortality is represented primarily by three indicators, namely neonatal, infant, and under-5 mortality. The 2018 ZDHS results show that, in the 5-year period prior to the survey, the neonatal mortality rate was 27 deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate in the same period was 42 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the under-5 mortality rate was 61 deaths per 1,000 live births.

As a matter of established structure, this essay now attempts to compare and contrast the subject matter and detail covered in the ZDHS with that of the census of population, paying attention to the 2010 census of population and housing analytical report. A population census is the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing demographic, economic and social data at the smallest geographic level pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.

Usually, there are certain topics that are covered in both the ZDHS and the census of population. However, the depth of the detail and subject matter of the ZDHS cannot be compared to that of the census of population. Traditionally the census collects basic information of the entire population within the delineated area while on the other hand the survey collects detailed information on specific topics of interest in a particular round of surveys. For example, the 2010 census of population and housing collected information on the usual members of the households (de jure) as well as those that spent the night at that particular household (de facto). The ZDHS however collected information on the basis of de jure and de facto but only from those people who were eligible in the selected households.

The census of population provides information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population of Zambia at the lowest administrative level - the Constituency and Ward and everyone was enumerated. On the contrary, the ZDHS provides information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics by interviewing only those people who were eligible. A total of 13,683 women age 15-49 years and 12,132 men age 15-59 years were interviewed in the 2018 ZDHS. The report shows that the distribution of women and men age 15-

49 years were interviewed by background characteristics and for the most part, the female and male populations had similar distributions. In both populations, the proportion of women and men in each age group decreased with increasing age, reflecting the comparatively young age structure of the population in Zambia.

In most cases only relatively simple topics are investigated in a census and the number of questions is usually limited compared to that of the Zambia Demographic Health Survey which goes in depth when collecting data. For instance, there were two fertility questions in the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. One asked all females 12 years and older if they ever had a live birth broken down by whether these children were still alive or not. The second question asked females, (12-49 years old) if they had any live births in the 12 months preceding the census, also broken down by whether these children were still alive or not. While in the ZDHS information was collected in depth on fertility.

Furthermore, the 2018 ZDHS collected information on the number of children ever born to women aged 15-49 years and whether each child was still alive at the time of the survey. More data was collected on fertility in the 2018 ZDHS such as the family planning methods, menopause etc. Women were also asked if they had any antenatal care in the five years before the time of the survey and also women who had live births in the five years prior to the survey were asked if they took iron tablet or syrup and intestinal parasite drugs for their most recent births.

In conclusion, demographic data in Zambia is incomplete without the ZDHS. The demographic data from this survey is important for the assessment of the country's population and to also indicate the country's development. The survey is also necessary because it provides information for program managers, policymakers, and implementers to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programs as well as providing a baseline data for planning and subsequent evaluation within the Sixth National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) and to measure progress toward the achievement of SDG goals.

## **REFERENCES**

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