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INTERIM REPORT ON TEACHING AND
RESEARCH IN DEMOGRAPHY IN JAPAN

by

Minoru TACHI and Toshio KURODA

Institute of Population Problems
Ministry of Health and Welfare
Tokyo, Japan

FOREWORD

This is an interim report on the present situation of teaching and research in demography in Japan, which was originally requested by Professor B. Remiche, Executive Secretary of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, on behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organization.

The report is not necessarily comprehensive nor intensive. In particular, with regards to teaching and research at universities, information given here is limited. More comprehensive and detailed survey in this field is under consideration in order to complement this report.

However, at this moment even such a cursory description of demographic training and research in Japan might be helpful and useful for people who are concerned in this subject.

This report was prepared jointly by Minoru Tachi, the Director and Toshio Kuroda, Chief of Migration Research Division of the Institute.

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Minoru Tachi
Director
Institute of Population Problems
Ministry of Health and Welfare
Japan

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Part 1
Teaching and Research in Demography
at Universities

This is an interim report of a survey on teaching and research in demography at universities in Japan undertaken by the Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Japan, which is not yet completed and also the activities in the field of population conducted by the Medical and Public Health Faculty of Colleges are scheduled to be surveyed in near future by the above Institute to up-to-date the previous information given by Dr. H. Mizushima.¹⁾

Simple questionnaires were sent to 26 universities late 1968, which were expected to have been doing demographic teaching in some faculties of the universities. It was found that 23 among 26 universities, namely about 88.5 per cent, and also 25 faculties are conducting teaching on demography mostly as a special part of economics, commerce, sociology, geography and so on. It may be anticipated that a comprehensive survey conducted later by the Institute of Population Problems may show

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- 1) Some information on the university teaching of demography including medical field in Japan was reported by Dr. H. Mizushima to the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in 1957 and published by the UNESCO. See The University Teaching of Social Sciences, Demography, A Survey prepared under the auspices of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, by D.V. Glass, editor, pp. 107-111.

fairly more numerous universities making lectures on demography in different ways according to specific requirements of each university or faculty.

I. Demographic Teaching at Undergraduate Level

The distribution of teaching on demography at undergraduate level by the faculty is shown as follows:

Department of Economics	13
Department of Sociology	2
Department of Geography	2
Department of Arts and Sciences	1
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Total	25

All lectures on demography are given as a part of major sciences. However, most of them, 23 out of 25 lectures are optional. Only 2 are requirements. Since demography is a special subject, it is taught mostly at 3rd or 4th class year of each department. But two departments are teaching demography as one of general subjects for students of 2nd class year.

Teaching on demography is given once a week at all faculties and mostly one hour and half lecture with one exception of three hours. However, 17 faculties operate it for one year, but 6 faculties half a year and 2 faculties

every two years.

It should be noted that the subject of demographic lecture given is not uniform, varying remarkably according to each faculty. Population theory, demographic statistics, economic problems of population, socio-economic problems of urban and rural population, population problems and development policy are some examples of demographic teaching.

In Japan economic-demography and population theory were traditionally more instructive subjects than other aspects of demography. However, major interests in the teaching of demography are shifting to population statistics, techniques of population analysis and substantive demography in connection with rapid change in socio-economic setting in Japan.

II. Demographic Teaching at Postgraduate Level

In a few universities demography is taught at postgraduate level. According to a preliminary, partial survey conducted by us five universities, namely Hokkaido National University, Keio, Waseda, Toyo and Komazawa Universities (all of them except Hokkaido National Univ. are private universities and located in Tokyo) are giving demographic teaching at postgraduate level. However, advanced teaching in demography is given as an optional subject of Economics (M.A. or Doctoral degree courses) at three universities, Keio, Waseda and Komazawa, and also as optional or

or required subject of Sociology (M.A. or Doctoral courses) at two universities, Hokkaido National University and Toyo University. It is only at the former university which demography is required as a part of Sociology course for M.A. and Doctoral degrees.

In general at postgraduate level advanced demography is taught two ways every week. One is formal lecture by professor and another is so called seminar class at which each student is required to make an oral report on a specific topic by turns requested by the professor and discussion meeting is directed by the professor.

However, there are no universities yet that have established a Department of Demography at undergraduate level or Demographic course for postgraduate students to whom M.A. or Doctoral degrees on Demography are offered.

Most recently a few universities are increasingly recognizing the importance of increasing or expanding the teaching of demography by integrating demography into a core of courses of various faculties, particularly of Economics, Sociology, Geography and so on.

Consequently, it may be expected that a few limited universities are going a step further for example by offering academic degrees for specialized dissertations on population,

and also by initiating specific facilities conducting demographic researches and studies.

III. Research Activities at Universities

There are no systematic institutions at universities in Japan which are exclusively and intensively devoted to demographic researches and studies except the Institute of Population of Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, although it is a governmental and not a university institution. Particularly it may be suggested here that the Department of Sociology of the Hokkaido National University has a plan to establish the socio-demographic course in which a core of courses is centered on various aspects of population with special emphasis on sociology.

However, it may be interesting to note that some universities are conducting very specific studies. A few examples are cited for reference. The Department of Geography of Rissho University (Tokyo) has a facility of academic research of India in which a study section of Indian population is established. Daito-Bunka University (Tokyo) has a special committee to make studies on materials of historical demography and population thoughts in Japan and also to compile encyclopedia on historical demography of Japan, all of which are scheduled to be published in future.

It may be added that not a few scholars in the field of social sciences have done or are doing very specific studies on

specific aspects of population, though not exclusively, in connection with their own research subjects.

Part 2
The Employment and Training of
Persons with Training in Demography
or Allied Population Fields

The Japanese university education, both of the pre-war system and of the revised post-war system, follows the traditional system of subject specialization, and as allied subjects to population, there are such courses as economics, sociology, statistics, medicine, biology, geography and anthropology.

The population problems in Japan had been characterized in their main feature as the problem of excessive population through pre-war to immediate post-war periods. As the result of the demographic revolution corresponding to sudden social changes after the war, however, our population problems have converted the nature from the quantitative to qualitative question. In spite of repeated requests by the Science Council of Japan for the establishment of "courses of demography" in universities in order to meet the current social need, the efforts have not been materialized as yet. At present, population theory, demographic statistics, etc. are being provided as special lectures in a few universities which were described in detail in the previous Part 1. Accordingly, among those who are employed in research and other works specifically concerned with population, those who specialized in demography are extremely scarce, and the majority

of them are from the allied fields mentioned above.

I. All activities of the professionally employed in research and other works in the field of population

(1) Central and local governments

For the collection and analysis of statistical data of population as those of the national population censuses, the Bureau of Statistics of the Office of the Prime Minister is responsible in the Central Government, and in local governments, Statistics Sections of Prefectures and Statistics Units of Cities, Towns and Villages are in charge of such activities.

Data collection and analysis of vital statistics of births, deaths, still-births, marriages and divorces are done in the Division of Health and Welfare Statistics of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and in local governments, Health Divisions of Prefectural Governments, Vital Statistics Units in Public Health Centers and Registration Units of Office of Cities, Towns and Villages are in charge.

Since pre-war times up to the revision of the registration system in vital statistics in September 1947, similarly with the static population data, the schedules of vital statistics surveys received at the Offices of Cities, Towns and Villages were used to be submitted through the Statistics Sections of

Prefectures to the Cabinet Bureau of Statistics in the Central Government. Since the war, however, the schedules of the vital statistics survey are sent to pertinent Health Centers from the Offices of Cities, Towns and Villages. The Health Centers keep a copy and send another copy through the Health Divisions of Prefectures to the Division of Health and Welfare Statistics of the Health and Welfare Minister's Secretariat, where they are processed and analyzed to some extent to be published in monthly and annual reports.

Almost all the personnel who engage in the collection of such data are those employers of the Government as administrative secretaries.

In Central Government, university graduates are those from the fields of economics, sociology or mathematics as explained above.

Among the workers at the Bureau of Statistics of the Office of the Prime Minister who engage in planning, management and actual execution of Censuses and analysis of collected Census data, those who graduated from universities in such allied fields as economics, mathematics, etc., who have over 5 years of experience in population statistics and who can be considered as professional workers in the field of population are eleven persons in total: Among the eleven, 8 persons engage in Census

taking and registered population migration, and 3 persons are in charge of population estimate and labor force population.

Besides them, 15 engage in economic statistics and tabulation.

Among those who are in charge of collection, processing and analysis of vital statistics, 10 persons are employed at the Division of Health and Welfare Statistics of the Health and Welfare Minister's Secretariat, of whom 2 are in charge of general matters related to vital statistics, 7 are of analysis of diseases and deaths, and one is of fertility.

In Prefectural Governments, those who engage in Census and vital statistics number approximately 3,200, of whom about 25% are graduates of universities or junior colleges, but their specialization is unknown. It is estimated that about 15% of the above total engage regularly in preparation and analysis of demographic statistics. At the time of execution of National Censuses taken every 5 years, almost all of the above statistical workers are mobilized.

(2) Research institutions

As the national institute for professional demographic researches and studies of population problems, there is the Institute of Population Problems affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Welfare established in 1939. In this Institute,

there are 29 research workers engaging in demographic analysis and population studies of whom 20 are university graduates. Their fields of specialization at universities are five in economics and four respectively in sociology and geography, three in anthropology, and one each in politics, medicine, history and home economics.

As another research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the National Institute of Public Health (established in 1938) is in charge of training of public health nurses and other public health workers. For the researches connected with these training programs, among other departments, there is the Department of Public Health Demography where researches in the field of family planning mainly from medical and public health viewpoints are being conducted.

In addition to governmental institutions above mentioned, we should mention major private institutions which are exclusively concerned and engaged in population studies. One of them is the Foundation-Institute for Research in Population Problems which was established in 1933. This institution is especially interested in population policy studies and has made great efforts for recommending basic policy on population control, labor-force problems, regional development based on demographic researches and studies.

Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Newspaper, founded in 1949, should be mentioned as an institution which has greatly contributed to the dissemination of population knowledge, and also specifically be noted that they have continued to make biennial surveys on family planning at all costs since 1950. They conducted the 10th survey in 1969.

Two special study groups are added here. One is the Demographic Study Group (D.S.G.) which is composed of qualified demographers trained in various sciences and had made broad activities in the field of population. For example, cooperative work with the Population Division, United Nations, particularly revising work of "Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends", publications of demographic studies in Japan. This group organization was established in 1959 and Dr. M. Tachi represents this group as chairman.

Another is the Study Group on Population Science. This study group was initiated by Professor Ryosaburo Minami in cooperation with Dr. M. Tachi in 1958. This group usually holds a seminar meeting every month and has published several books on population, each with specific problems, for example, urbanization, labor force,

family planning and so on.

Some other organizations and institutions which are partially interested in population or mostly working on information activities in the field of population are excluded here.

(3) employment and in-service training

In post-war practice, those who are to be employed as central or local public servants are in principle required to pass the examination given according to the provisions of the National Public Service Law. University graduates apply for the higher class examination, and there is no specific classification of qualification for demography. Those who are employed in the qualification of law, administration, economics, mathematics, statistics, etc. are appointed to the posts related to the population work.

For those public servants who are to engage in statistical works, chances are provided to receive 6-month training in the outline of statistics, planning, execution, tabulation and analysis of statistical survey, etc. at the Training Institute of Statistical Personnel affiliated to the Bureau of Statistics of the Office of the Prime Minister. Among their training curriculum, population statistics is included as a part.

As a general training organ for public servants, the Ministry of Home Affairs has the Training Institute for Public Service Personnel and local public servants can receive training at

Local Autonomy College. As part of their curriculum, limited hours of lectures are given relating to population problems.

Some small numbers of workers have received demographic training abroad mainly at the Office of Population Research of Princeton University, Brown University, University of Chicago and so on in the USA and the Demographic Training and Research Centre in Bombay, India.

(4) summary

In Japan, those who graduate from universities as demographic experts are only scarce, and the ones who engage in demographic statistics are employed as general administrative secretaries except few trained statistical mathematicians who are employed for their qualification as professional experts.

Generally, the population workers acquired demographic knowledge and techniques through utilizing the above-mentioned training institutes or through on-the-job training on the basis of basic knowledge in economics, sociology, statistics, etc. obtained at universities.

Accordingly, there is not yet systematized special advancement system specifically for demographic workers. However, as mentioned in Part 1, we may be able to expect staffs in near future who might have received advanced training in demography.

II. Family planning workers

Up until 1955, the chief motive for family planning in Japan was the economic difficulties, but since then it changed to such modern motive as the need for higher education for children reflecting increased cultural desires.

Since the Cabinet decision was reached concerning the dissemination of contraception in 1951, various dissemination plans have been established mainly in the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the Maternal and Child Health Section of the Children and Family Bureau of the Ministry is presently in charge of the programs. In Prefectural Governments, pertinent section either of Health Division or Welfare Division is in charge under whose jurisdiction guidance personnels are stationed in Health Centers and Offices of Cities, Towns and Villages to provide actual guidance for the dissemination of family planning.

Under this network, those who are in charge of family planning are a part of the official engaging in health administration, who are composed of general administrative secretaries and technical personnel in the field of medicine, public health and environmental sanitation. Administrative secretaries are employed as national or local public servants, among whom most of the university graduates are the ones from the fields of law, public administration, economics, etc. as mentioned above. Almost all

of the health technical officials are graduates of medical or public health departments of universities and in-service training programs for higher professional techniques related to health administration is available at the National Institute of Public Health.

In the medical faculties of universities, particularly among courses in public health, some demographic courses are included, and also in the in-service training programs at the National Institute of Public Health, lectures on demography are being given.

In the course of development of family planning dissemination programs in Japan, major contributions have been made by the cooperative endeavours of various private organizations and groups rather than by the government or local public bodies. Among them, the Foundation-Institute for the Research of Population Problems started what was called "The New Life Movement" in 1953. In order to keep up with the rapid social change, this movement aims at the promotion of family welfare by establishing new modern human relation in the family, where family planning is emphasized as a part of the rationalization process of daily living. This movement was initially experimented in large-scale modern industrial establishments for the workers and their families, and has been expanding through

larger part of societies with successful results. Private activities such as this program are assisted and guided by demographers and economists, sociologists, physicians, etc. interested in population problems.

