

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SETTING UP WORKSTATION FOR  
RESEARCH ON SAMPLE MICRO DATA FROM CENSUS**

**1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023**

**Office of the Registrar General, India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
2/A Man Singh Road  
New Delhi – 110001**

**This Memorandum of Understanding is made at Patna University, Patna on  
1<sup>st</sup> Day of September 2023**

**Between**

Office of the Directorate of Census Operations, Bihar, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with Office at 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, C-G Block, Karpoori Thakur Sadan, Ashiyan-Digha Road, Patna-800025 (hereinafter referred as "First Party", which expression shall, unless repugnant to the meaning of the context thereof, means and includes its representative(s), executors and permitted assigns) of the First Party.

AND

Patna University, Patna-800005 (Hereinafter referred as "**Second Party**", which expression shall, unless repugnant to the meaning of the context thereof, means and includes its representatives, executors and permitted assigns) of the Second Party.

**I. BACKGROUND**

01. The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORG & CCI) is an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs and has currently 35 offices all over the country. Besides the Head Office at New Delhi and Language Division at Kolkata, 33 offices are located in States/UTs and are known as Directorate of Census Operations (DCOs). The Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (ORG & CCI) has its own administrative setup. The office is responsible for:

- Conduct of decennial Population Census under the Census Act 1948, tabulate and disseminate the Census data;
- Coordinating and unifying at the National level, the work under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969;
- Estimating at the National and State level, fertility and mortality rates through the Sample Registration System (SRS);
- Preparation of National Register of Indian Citizens as since 2003, Registrar General, India has been designated as National Registration Authority and Registrar General of Citizen Registration under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.
- Preparation & updation of National Population Register (NPR)
- Rendering Technical & Logistics Support for conduct of different statistical exercises for different departments like AHS, SECC etc. in the past.

02. Conduct of the Census is a role assigned to Government of India, under the Constitution. The Indian Census has a rich tradition and enjoys the reputation of being one of the best in the world. The first Census in India was conducted in the year 1872. This was conducted at different points of time in different parts of the country. In 1881, the Census was conducted for the entire country simultaneously. Since then, Census has

been conducted every ten years, without a break in spite of several adversities like wars, epidemics, natural calamities, political unrest, etc. This mammoth administrative exercise of collection of micro level data for the entire country, requiring huge commitment of manpower and material resources, is conducted by the Government of India every ten years with the active support of States/UTs. Census, 2011 is the fifteenth in this unbroken series since 1872 and the seventh after independence.

03. The Post-Census operations call for tabulation of the data collected during Census, in proper format, at the earliest, with high level of accuracy, to make it available for use by all concerned. Accordingly, after every Census, ORGI and DCOs publish a wealth of data with regard to statistics on population.

04. At the time of each decennial Census huge array of information is collected from each person in the country on various subjects like social, demographic, economic and other related aspects. Information is also collected about the household and about housing condition, amenities and assets available.

05. This huge information collected is then used to generate specific pre-formatted tables for use by a wide range of data users. At the Census 2011, more than **300 tables** were generated using the database of information on more than 1.20 billion people. Besides, on request from data users customized tables are also generated for their specific use from the database.

06. As **information is power and as collection of information** itself is very costly, many countries allow **researchers the access to** such a huge dataset as in Census for individual **research. The ORGI** has also extended this facility to the **researchers and established** 18 Workstations in different Universities/Institutes for research on micro-data from Indian Census.

07. The Census Act 1948 stipulates that the information given by any respondent at the decennial Census is to be treated as confidential. Such information is also prohibited from being presented or used as exhibits in any court of law. The census data published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India is in the form of aggregate tables at various administrative levels like, the country, state, district, sub-district, town, village or ward in town as the case may be, where it is not possible to identify the individual(s) to whom these relate to. While allowing research on micro-data it is therefore utmost important to anonymize the data to protect confidentiality by masking the location and a few sensitive fields. After anonymizing the record level data, the dataset is made available for in-depth research at the workstations on varying characteristics of the population of the country. The researchers are permitted to generate cross tabulations using the micro-data sets but are not permitted to copy or take out the data from the workstation.

## II. OBJECTIVE

08. The objective of setting up the Workstation is to permit qualified researchers for optimum use of anonymized micro-data from census for in-depth research by allowing access for generating cross tabulations not published by the Census. The facility is open to all including those who are not enrolled or part of the university.

09. Such research would not only allow greater utilization of data by way of generating cross-tabulations from confidential micro-data not otherwise possible by using aggregate level data available in public domain. An in-depth study might also contribute towards using improving methodology of data collection during census as well as identify strengths and weaknesses of the micro-data.

10. Each set of observations arrived at the data Centre after research would be the end result of decision rules covering definitions, classifications, coding procedures, processing, editing, etc. The validity and consequences of all these decision/ rules only become evident when the ORGI's micro-databases would be tested in the course of analysis. Exposing to the light of research the conceptual and processing assumptions that are embedded in the Census micro-databases constitute an important element in improving the quality of data.

### III. LOCATION:

11. As agreed, to by the Patna University, Patna. The workstation shall be located at the following address:

Population Research Centre  
Department of Statistics  
Patna University  
Patna-800005

### FACILITIES AVAILABLE

12. The workstation will be fully equipped with all the facilities for research on confidential micro-data from Census 2001, Census 2011 & onwards. The workstation will be fully air-conditioned and would have a network of computer terminals for accessing the data. An official from the university will be posted at the workstation to provide access to the data sets required in the approved research proposal.

13. The researcher will be permitted to use only the software made available at the workstation for tabulation. The researchers may also use the printer installed in the workstation to print the approved outputs. She/he will however not be allowed to take out the soft copy of the micro-data in any format.

### IV. SUPERVISION OF THE WORKSTATION

14. The Second Party agrees to nominate Population Research Centre, Department of Statistics, Patna University, Patna as the Department responsible for setting up and maintaining the workstation on behalf of the University/Institute. The Department also agrees to foster and promote research at the workstation as agreed to in this MOU.

15. The Second Party also agrees to appoint a senior faculty member of the Department as the sole In-charge for the proper functioning of the workstation. University/Institute also agrees to appoint a separate faculty member to support the In-charge.



## **V. STEERING COMMITTEE**

16. For examining the research proposals received from scholars, students or any other person for undertaking research, a Steering Committee will be constituted by the Patna University. The Steering Committee shall comprise of four members, two members from the Patna University and two other members from the DCO/Office of Registrar General, India. The Steering Committee will meet regularly to examine the research proposals received at the workstation and accord permission for research, if found suitable. The facilities available at the workstation will only be allowed to researchers whose research proposals have been accepted and approved by the Committee. In case, the dataset is not available at the workstation, or up to the time it is not available, the faculty-in-Charge would forward the request for generating cross tabulations to the Data Dissemination Unit, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, New Delhi for consideration. If approved by the Census Commissioner, India the tables would be generated at the ORG & CCI and made available to the research scholar. The Steering Committee would make its own rules inconsonance with the general guidelines for operating the workstation. The nominated members from the First party would have the right to convene the meeting of the Steering Committee, if necessity arises.

## **VI. WHO PROVIDES THE DATA FOR RESEARCH**

17. After the proposal from a Research Scholar is approved by the Steering Committee, the Faculty in-charge would direct the person posted at the Workstation to allot a computer terminal and make available the data.

## **VII. RESTRICTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED**

18. In order to maintain the confidentiality of the data and also to supervise and monitor the use of the micro-data, it is not permissible to take out or copy the data. The researcher would be allowed to process the micro-data using the software as available in the workstation and generate the table(s) for use in her/his research. Only computer print-out of the tables so generated will be allowed to be taken out of the workstation. For this purpose, the researcher would have to fill in the prescribed form and obtain permission of the supervisor.

## **VIII. SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE**

19. The Second Party shall nominate a senior faculty member of the concerned Department of the university for supervising the workstation. She/he would be assisted by a junior Faculty Member in this work. The entire operation at the workstation would be supervised by the faculty so designated.

## **IX. SETTING UP WORKSTATION**

20. The Second Party agrees to set up the workstation as per modalities suggested by ORGI and elaborated in this MOU for research on micro-data from Census. The expenditure for setting up of workstation is to be borne by the Second Party.



## XI. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECOND PARTY

21. The Second Party, on its part, agrees to undertake and fulfill the following responsibilities in setting up, maintaining and fostering research at the Workstation being set up with the support from ORGI
- a) The Second Party agrees to bear all the expenditure in setting up of work station.
  - b) The Second Party agrees to allot suitable room/hall with space of about 1000 sq. ft. space to set up the workstation to the satisfaction of the office of RG & CCI or any officer nominated by him.
  - c) The Second Party agrees to undertake civil work (like, partitioning, painting, etc.) to create separate rooms for use as (i) Server Room, (ii) Terminal Room where the Desktop PCs will be installed to access the data, (iii) Supervisors room and (iv) Reception area.
  - d) The Second Party agrees also to undertake electrical work to provide adequate lighting, air conditioning and necessary points.
  - e) The Second Party agrees to make available Computers, Server, Desktop PCs, UPS, Printer and the software required (vide list below).
  - f) The Second Party will keep up to date the workstation.
  - g) The Second Party agrees to allow the use of space originally allotted for setting up the workstation. In case, the site has to be shifted to a new location all expenditures towards setting up the workstation will be borne by the Second Party.
  - h) The Second Party agrees to ensure proper maintenance of all equipment from its own fund.
  - i) The Second Party agrees to ensure security and cleanliness of the workstation and its surrounding areas.
  - j) The Second Party agrees to make available the services of one person for system administration, make available the data required by the researchers and overall supervision, The Second Party also agrees to arrange for fund required towards payment of monthly salary from its internal resources which will not be reimbursable by ORG & CCI.
  - k) The Second Party agrees to monitor and supervise the research work done at the workstation and also agrees to assume full responsibility of research undertaken therein.
  - l) The Second Party will ensure that the data hosted on the server is not being copied or taken out by anyone. For this purpose, the Second Party would disable all USB Ports to disallow copying.
  - m) Only the approved output tables prepared by the researchers shall be allowed to be taken out. The Second Party agrees to be responsible for day to day running of the workstation.
  - n) The Second Party agrees to set up a Steering Committee, comprising two members from their faculty and two other members from the DCO/ORGI to be nominated by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
  - o) The Second Party agrees to send information to the First party on the number of research scholars using the workstation on a quarterly basis.
  - p) The Second Party agrees to undertake adequate publicity (using website, newsletters, etc.) on the objectives of the workstation to facilitate research on census data
  - q) The Second Party agrees to maintain all documents / records concerning the use of the workstation and will make them available to ORGI for inspection as and when demanded.
  - r) The Second Party agrees to send to ORG & CCI a copy of the research paper, thesis or

report published by the researchers (in both hard and soft copy) using the facilities available at the workstation for record and for display at the census website.

## XII. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRST PARTY

- a) The First Party will make available census micro data, all the published tables from Censuses 1991 to 2011 & onwards for research as and when these are published.
- b) The First Party will generate customized tables as requested by the researchers subject to the sole discretion of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India till such time the census micro-data files are made available at the workstation.
- c) The First Party will not be responsible for results arrived at or conclusion drawn by the researcher using the data hosted in the workstation.
- d) The First Party will not be responsible for day to day running of the workstation and also regarding any dispute arising in using the workstation or research undertaken there.

## XIII SITE PREPARATION & LIST OF EQUIPMENTS

22. The Second Party agrees to offer suitable space for the workstation for research on micro-data from census.
23. The Second Party also agrees to install the computer accessories with minimum specification, as indicated below, for use in the workstation for research on micro-data from census:

Servers, Operating software, Core 2 Duo Desktop Computers, 1 GB RAM with 17" TFT and OS (at least 6), Antivirus software, UPS 1 KVA with four hours back up, UPS 650 VA with 30 minutes backup, MS Office or any other similar software, Statistical software (SPSS & STATA), LaserJet printer, 24 port LAN switch, Networking accessories.

## XIV DISPUTES

24. In case of any dispute arising between the First Party and Second Party, the same shall be settled mutually and amicably. In case of non-settlement of the issue, a three-person independent committee of the persons acceptable to both the parties shall be appointed to facilitate the settlement. The recommendations of the Committee will be binding on both the parties.

Directorate of Census Operations

Patna University

Name: M. RAMACHANDRUDU

Designation: DIRECTOR

Signature: Ramachandrudu

Date: 01.09.2023 एम. रामचंद्रुडु, भा. प्र. स.

01.09.2023 MB Ramachandrudu, IAS

निदेशक, जनगणना कार्य / निदेशक, नागरिक निबंधन  
Director of Census Operations / Director of Citizen Registration

Name: Prof. Khagendra Kumar

Designation: Registrar, PU

Signature/Stamp: Khagendra Kumar

Date: 01/09/2023

