

2013

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA



THE GENDER REPORT

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MoWA	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
NWC	National Women’s Council
PAGE	Program for Accelerated Growth & Employment
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHDR	United Nations Human Development Report
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US	United States
WoB	Women’s Bureau
NS	Not Stated

Concepts and Definitions

Adolescent Population: refers to persons who are aged between 15 and 19 years.

Economically Active Population: Also known as the **labour force** is the total employed and unemployed persons in the population. In other words, these are the persons available to the job market.

Gender Disaggregated Data: Is data that is collected and presented separately on men and women.

Gender Equality: Means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from economic, social, cultural and political development.

Gender Inequality: Refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their sex. It arises from differences in socially constructed sex roles.

Gender Mainstreaming: Means gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned actions, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels.

Household: This consists of a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, share the same housekeeping arrangements and are catered for as one. It is important to remember that members of a household may not necessarily be related by blood or marriage as for instance, domestic workers may form part of a household.

Illiterate: It is defined as a person who cannot read and write a simple sentence in any language using Arabic or Roman script or both.

Inter-Censal Period: The period between two censuses.

Labour Force: Is the total number of people employed and unemployed in the population (that is, those who do not have a job but are actively looking for work).

Literacy: Is defined as the ability to both read and write a simple statement in any language.

Person with Disability: A person with disability is defined as someone who is limited in the kind or amount of activities that he or she can do because of ongoing difficulties due to long-term physical condition, mental condition, sensory impairment or health problem.

Sex Disaggregated Data: Means data that are cross-classified by sex, presenting information separately for women and men, boys and girls.

Sex Ratio: Total male population/total female population, multiplied by 100

Total Fertility Rate (TFR): Refers to the average number of children each woman will have during her reproductive life span.

Rural: Settlements that do not meet the criteria of an urban settlement described above are considered rural.

Urban: According to the 2013 Population and Housing Census, a settlement is considered urban if it satisfies most of the following:

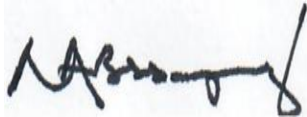
- Has commercial importance
- Has institutional importance
- Majority of the population should be non-agricultural in occupation
- Population should be 5,000 and above
- Density should be high
- Some degree of infrastructure should be available

Preface

This is Volume 9 of the 2013 Population and Housing Census Report. The report contains information on gender differentials on social and economic characteristics of the population. The information contained in this report will enable government to not only formulate appropriate sector action plans but also monitor and assess the impact of implemented policies on gender equality objectives. We hope the information in the report will complement other data to enhance policy formulation on gender and contribute to the improvement of quality of life for all Gambians.

We thank Mr Kajali Sonko for the preparation of this report. We thank the staff of GBoS for finalizing this report.

We wish to extend sincere thanks to The Gambia Government for providing funding for the conduct of the census, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their support both technical and financial for the conduct of the 2013 Population and Housing Census.



Nyakassi M. B. Sanyang
Statistician General

Executive Summary

Population

The 2013 Population and Housing Census indicated that, females constituted 50.8 per cent and males 49.2 per cent of the population (1,857,181), indicating a sex ratio of 97 males to every 100 females. However, a sex ratio of 118 for Banjul appears unconventional and should be interpreted with caution as this may be due to an undercount of women in the LGA or excessive migrant males into the LGA. In fact, Banjul has a larger share of non-Gambian males.

Education

The educational attainment of the population has improved tremendously over the years but experienced a drop in 2013. In 2003, 67.4 per cent of females and 75.0 per cent of the population had attained early childhood education and above in contrast to 59.3 per cent males and 51.3 per cent females who had attained early childhood education or higher in 2013. Females showed a relatively greater improvement in educational attainment than males.

Economic Activity

In 2013, working females were mostly engaged in the “agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry industry” accounting for 56.3 per cent, followed by the “service shop and market sales workers” 24.1 per cent and elementary workers with 5.4 per cent. This is in contrast to 33.3 per cent of males engaged in the “agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry”, followed by the “craft and related workers” 21.9 per cent and the “services, shop and market sales workers” 18.9 per cent.

Literacy

As revealed in the 2013 Census, 55.1 per cent of the population aged 15 and above were literate as compared to 40.9 per cent in 2003¹.

Household Headship

Male-headed households constituted 79.1 per cent and female-headed households constituted 20.9 per cent.

¹ Note that in 2003, literacy status was administered to populations 10 years and above.

Fertility

The total fertility rate (TFR) was estimated at 5.9 children per woman in 2013 indicating a decline of 0.1 compared to the 2003 figure of 6.04 children per woman aged 15-49.

Disability

The 2013 Census data revealed that out of 21,873 persons with disabilities, males constituted 49.3 per cent as compared to the female proportion of 50.7 per cent. The prevalence rates for males and females were 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively. The disability prevalence rate dropped from 2.4 per 100 persons in 2003 to 1.2 per 100 persons in 2013.

Information Communication Technology, (ICT)

The 2013 Population and Housing Census shows that 79.1 per cent of the population aged 7 years and older owned mobile phones. On average, 79.8 per cent of males own mobile phones compared to 78.6 per cent of females who own mobile phones.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Gambia has signed and ratified all the major international and regional legal instruments related to women's rights. Including these are the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equity in Africa (SDGEA), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women's Peace and Security.

These international instruments are domesticated to meet the state's obligation towards putting in place appropriate action plans to meet gender equality objectives. The development of the Gender Statistics Report of the 2013 Population and Housing Census was initiated as part of a wider effort to improve the availability of gender-disaggregated data for monitoring gender equality objectives and to advocate for gender responsive legislative, policy formulation and implementation.

The Government of The Gambia recognizes the need to attain gender equity and equality as a critical conduit for the socio-economic development of the country. This recognition led to the development of gender sensitive Medium and Long Term Development Framework for the socio-economic empowerment of women and men such as Vision 2020, the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE 2011-2015) and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy 2010-2020. The realization of gender equality and basic rights of women and men requires all sectors and actors in the development process to address gender issues in their respective areas of mandate and capacities.

1.1 Background

Gender inequalities are not only inimical to personal development and well-being but undermine national development. Reducing or eliminating inequalities in society is therefore critical to improving the socio-economic well-being of both males and females. Gender inequalities are manifested in access to social services, wage employment, educational opportunities, the exercise of one's basic human rights, control over productive resources and freedom to make informed choices and decisions. Addressing gender inequity requires taking a holistic rights-based approach by all stakeholders.

This Volume seeks to provide information that could be useful for policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's empowerment and gender equality in The Gambia. The census was conducted at a time of remarkable momentum for advancing women's rights and the gender

equality agenda in The Gambia. Notably, the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act 2013, Domestic Violence Act 2013 and Women's Act 2010 and the National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020. The introduction of gender mainstreaming in sectoral policies and programmes in The Gambia can be traced back to 1975 following the declaration of the International Women's Year and Decade and this promulgated into the establishment of the National Women's Council (NWC) in 1980 with its technical arm, the Women's Bureau (WoB). The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) was also established in 2006 and the Women Federation in 2011.

Series of international conferences such as the United Nations World Conferences Cairo (1994), Beijing (1995), Copenhagen (1995) and the Millennium Summit (2000), United States-Africa Summit (2014) have thrown their full weight behind gender equality and equity and have persuaded governments worldwide to commit themselves to a series of well-crafted international agreements and plans of action to enhance the process of empowerment of women. The Gambia has been an active participant in the process and this report documents several areas in which progress has been registered in the area of population dynamics, education, disability, economic characteristics, information and communication, population and adolescent youth.

The 2013 Population and Housing Census provide an opportunity to generate reliable population-based data that are critical for effective policy-making on gender equality and Women's Empowerment in The Gambia. It is against this background that The Gambia Government has been supporting the need for gender-disaggregated statistics to monitor the well-being of women for overall societal development.

1.2 Data Source and Limitations

The Gender Report of the 2013 Population and Housing Census utilizes data from both the current and previous censuses. The variables collected in the census were disaggregated by sex with the objective to show differentials if any between males and females. Notwithstanding, some key variables such as access to and control of resources and decision making at both household and national levels were not collected in the census.

CHAPTER 2: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

The 2013 Population and Housing Census enumerated 1,857,181 people in The Gambia. Of these 943,426 (50.8 per cent) were females whilst the males constituted 913,755 (49.2 per cent). Among the male population, 16.2 per cent were children under the age of five compared to 15.3 per cent of females in the same age-group. Over 3 per cent of the population were aged 65 years or older. The census revealed an increase in the population aged 15-24 years, from 19.0 per cent in 2003 to 21.4 per cent in 2013. There were more females in the age group 15-39 years than males. (Table 2.0).

Table 2.0: Distribution of population of The Gambia by age-group and sex

Age group	Population			per cent	share of the population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
0-4	147,752	144,102	291,854	16.2	15.3	15.7
5-9	141,334	138,732	280,066	15.5	14.7	15.1
10-14	110,434	109,711	220,145	12.1	11.6	11.9
15-19	102,995	111,269	214,264	11.3	11.8	11.5
20-24	86,075	97,864	183,939	9.4	10.4	9.9
25-29	74,341	85,015	159,356	8.1	9.0	8.6
30-34	56,957	65,212	122,169	6.2	6.9	6.6
35-39	45,922	48,644	94,566	5.0	5.2	5.1
40-44	36,485	36,544	73,029	4.0	3.9	3.9
45-49	28,616	26,994	55,610	3.1	2.9	3.0
50-54	23,169	22,404	45,573	2.5	2.4	2.5
55-59	14,677	11,919	26,596	1.6	1.3	1.4
60-64	15,738	14,560	30,298	1.7	1.5	1.6
65-69	9,824	8,373	18,197	1.1	0.9	1.0
70-74	7,472	8,086	15,558	0.8	0.9	0.8
75-79	4,387	4,313	8,700	0.5	0.5	0.5
80-84	3,404	4,417	7,821	0.4	0.5	0.4
85+	3,275	4,504	7,779	0.4	0.5	0.4
Not Stated	898	763	1,661	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	913,755	943,426	1,857,181	100.0	100.0	100.0

The table below shows a declining trend in the proportion of children under five years between 1983 and 2003, but rose again in 2013 for both males and females. The decline in infant and child mortality coupled with decline in fertility over the same period (1983-2003) could have attributed to the decrease in proportion of under-fives. The proportion of the population aged, 65 and above has been below 4.0 per cent since 1993 for both males and females. This is quite unexpected as life expectancy at birth has increased and mortality fallen. The implication here is that mortality is falling at a faster rate than fertility. However, it is worth mentioning that in

absolute terms, the population aged 65 years and older are more than doubled from 25,438 in 1983 to 58,055 in 2013 (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Percentage distribution of the population by five-year age group and sex, 1983-2013

Age Group	Male				Female			
	1983	1993	2003	2013	1983	1993	2003	2013
0- 4	17.1	16.2	14.5	16.2	16.9	16.1	13.9	15.3
5- 9	16.3	15.8	15.5	15.5	16.1	15.8	14.8	14.7
10-14	11.0	11.8	12.7	12.1	10.2	11.8	12.4	11.6
15 - 19	8.6	10.1	11.5	11.3	9.7	10.8	11.8	11.8
20 - 24	7.9	8.6	9.7	9.4	9.1	9.0	10.2	10.4
25 - 29	8.1	7.9	8.0	8.1	9.6	9.1	9.0	9.0
30 - 34	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.2	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.9
35 - 39	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.2
40 - 44	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9
45 - 49	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.9
50 - 54	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4
55 - 59	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3
60 - 64	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5
65+	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1
NS	1.3	1.8	1.2	0.1	0.8	1.5	0.8	0.1
Total	342,134	519,950	670,841	913,755	345,683	518,195	689,840	943,426

Source: Population and Housing Censuses 1983-2013, CSD/ GBoS 2013

Table 2.2 shows the percentage distribution of the population by sex and Local Government Area for the period 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013. The 2013 Population and Housing Census data analysis showed that, Brikama and Kanifing continue to register the highest population for both males and females compared with other LGAs. It is observed that for the inter-censal period 2003-2013, with the exception of Brikama LGA, there was a slight decline in the percentage share of the male population compared to the other years. This holds true for the female shares.

Table 2.2: Percentage distribution of the population by sex and LGA, 1983-2013

LGA	1983		1993		2003		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Banjul	6.2	6.2	4.3	3.8	2.8	2.4	1.8	1.5
Kanifing	14.3	14.3	22.7	21.2	24.4	23.0	20.7	19.9
Brikama	20.0	19.8	22.9	22.3	29.1	28.2	37.7	36.5
Mansakonko	8.2	8.2	6.1	6.4	5.1	5.5	4.2	4.5
Kerewan	16.7	16.6	14.8	15.3	12.3	13.0	11.6	12.1
Kuntaur	8.3	8.3	6.4	6.6	5.6	5.9	5.0	5.4
Janjanbureh	9.9	9.9	8.4	8.6	7.7	8.0	6.6	6.9
Basse	16.9	16.7	14.4	15.4	12.9	13.9	12.3	13.2
Total	49.7	50.3	50.1	49.9	49.3	50.7	49.2	50.8
Count	342,134	345,683	519,950	518,195	670,841	689,840	913,755	943,426

2.3 Adolescent Population

The period of adolescence represents the interlude between childhood and adulthood. Generally, puberty is accepted as the beginning of adolescence but there is yet no consensus on when this period ends in this report, the adolescent population refers to persons aged between 15-19 years. It is important to single out adolescents, as this is the most difficult period in human growth characterized by self-definition often through peer influence.

There were 214,264 adolescents in The Gambia at the time of the 2013 Population and Housing Census, of which 48.1 per cent were males 51.9 per cent females. There were more adolescent females than males across all LGAs (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of adolescents by sex and LGA

LGA	Sex		Count
	Male Per cent	Female Per cent	
Banjul	50.1	49.9	3,227
Kanifing	46.8	53.2	43,366
Brikama	49.1	50.9	80,916
Mansakonko	48.4	51.6	9,753
Kerewan	47.5	52.5	25,122
Kuntaur	46.1	53.9	10,495
Janjanbureh	46.4	53.6	14,601
Basse	48.9	51.2	26,784
Total	48.1	51.9	214,264

Table 2.4 present the adolescent population by single years, sex and place of residence. The data shows that 59.1 per cent of the adolescents lived in urban areas and 40.9 per cent in rural areas. However, there were more adolescent females than males living in the urban and rural areas.

Table 2.4: Percentage distribution of adolescents by years, sex and residence

Years	Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
15	5.8	6.2	5.3	5.3
16	5.1	5.6	3.7	3.9
17	5.1	5.4	3.3	3.5
18	7.0	7.6	4.5	5.1
19	5.5	6.0	2.8	3.3
Total	28.4	30.7	19.7	21.2

CHAPTER 3: LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

This chapter looks at the literacy status of the population 15 years and over, educational attainment of those aged 3 years and over as well as the educational attainment of the adolescent population. The purpose is to compare male literacy and educational attainment with that of females and identify disparities that exist between the sexes.

The 2013 National Population Census adopted the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) definition of literacy, which is the ability to read and write a simple sentence in any language. A person, who cannot meet the above criteria, is regarded as illiterate. This definition of literacy is widely used in national population censuses and surveys but its interpretation and application may vary to some extent among countries, depending on national, social and cultural circumstances. Furthermore, this concept of literacy includes persons who, though familiar with the basics of reading and writing, might still be considered functionally illiterate.

Literacy is a good measure of educational achievement. Literacy may be a better measure of education than enrolment since it usually reflects a minimal level of successfully completed schooling.

3.1 Literacy and Levels

Table 3.1a shows percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and over by sex, residence and literacy status. It reveals that overall, 65.9 per cent of the male population aged 15 years and above were literate as compared to 45.0 per cent of females. While 28.0 per cent of males aged 15 years and older could not read nor write (illiterate) and 46.1 per cent of their female counterparts were illiterate. However, the proportion of females who could read only was higher than males—8.9 and 6.1 per cent respectively. The data further shows that, literacy was higher in the urban areas compared to the rural areas (64.2 per cent and 40.5 per cent respectively) while those who can read only was higher in the rural areas compared to the urban areas 10.8 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively (Table 3.1a)

Table 3.1a: Literacy status of population aged 15 years and above by sex and residence

Literacy status	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Total
Read and Write	65.9	45.0	64.2	40.5	55.1
Read only	6.1	8.9	5.5	10.8	7.5
Cannot read or write	28.0	46.1	30.3	48.7	37.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Literacy rates tend to decrease with increasing age and this hold true for males as well as females. For example, more than 7 out of every 10 males below age 30 were literate but only a little over one-quarter of those aged 85 years and older were literate. Among the females aged 15 years and older, 72.2 per cent and 62.0 per of those in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 were literate compared to 4.8 per cent of those aged 85 years and older. Generally, literacy rates are higher among males across all ages. The reverse holds true for illiteracy (Table 3.1b)

Table 3.1b Percentage distribution of the population 15 years and over by sex, age group and literacy status

Age group	Male				Female			
	Literate	Read only	Illiterate	Total	Literate	Read only	Illiterate	Total
15-19	78.3	4.6	17.1	102,968	72.2	5.6	22.2	111,229
20-24	75.3	4.7	20.0	86,034	62.0	7.3	30.7	97,822
25-29	70.5	5.5	24.1	74,300	48.6	9.2	42.3	84,983
30-34	65.9	6.2	27.9	56,935	38.0	10.3	51.7	65,181
35-39	63.3	6.7	30.0	45,890	32.7	10.6	56.7	48,612
40-44	60.4	6.9	32.7	36,436	25.8	11.3	62.9	36,522
45-49	56.6	7.4	36.1	28,589	20.8	11.2	68.1	26,969
50-54	50.5	8.4	41.1	23,137	16.1	11.3	72.6	22,380
55-59	49.8	8.2	42.0	14,635	16.5	10.7	72.8	11,889
60-64	42.7	9.3	48.0	15,702	11.6	11.0	77.4	14,539
65-69	41.1	9.8	49.1	9,803	11.0	10.6	78.4	8,362
70-74	34.5	11.0	54.6	7,459	6.8	11.4	81.8	8,074
75-79	33.0	10.2	56.7	4,385	6.6	10.8	82.6	4,309
80-84	26.4	10.8	62.9	3,400	5.1	10.1	84.8	4,413
85+	25.3	11.0	63.7	3,275	4.8	8.7	86.5	4,498
Total	65.9	6.1	28.0	512,948	45.0	8.9	46.1	549,782

3.2 Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex, Literacy Status and LGA

Presented in Table 3.2 is the distribution of the population aged 15 years and over by sex, literacy status and LGA. It reveals that literacy rates were higher among the urban LGAs for both sexes. More than 7 out of 10 of the male population aged 15 years and older in Banjul and Kanifing are literate compared to 44.3 per cent of those in Kuntaur. Brikama, which is predominantly urban has the third highest proportion of males who are literate (72.1 per cent). Kuntaur also happen to have the lowest proportion of the literate population aged 15 years and older. A similar pattern is observed among females of the same age. On the other hand, illiteracy rates were higher in the predominantly rural LGAs (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and over by sex, literacy status and LGA

L G A	Male			Female			Both Sexes		
	Read and Write	Read only	Cannot read or write	Read and Write	Read only	Cannot read or write	Read and Write	Read only	Cannot read or write
Banjul	74.2	3.7	22.1	64.4	2.8	32.8	69.8	3.3	26.9
Kanifing	76.8	4.1	19.1	61.9	4.7	33.4	69.4	4.4	26.2
Brikama	70.8	4.5	24.7	51.5	5.9	42.6	61.1	5.2	33.7
Mansakonko	64.8	6.7	28.5	37.2	12.8	49.9	49.7	10.1	40.3
Kerewan	60.4	8.7	30.9	35.6	13.1	51.3	46.9	11.1	42
Kuntaur	43.6	12.2	44.2	22.4	16.8	60.8	31.9	14.7	53.4
Janjanbureh	48.6	10.4	41	30.1	14.5	55.4	38.5	12.6	48.8
Basse	45.9	10.1	44.1	22.7	14	63.3	32.9	12.3	54.9
Total	65.9	6.1	28.0	45.0	8.9	46.1	55.1	7.5	37.4

3.3 Educational Attainment

Educational attainment could be measured in terms of years of schooling or levels attained. For the purpose of this report, educational attainment is defined as levels attained and it encompasses formal education in the Roman and Arabic scripts but excluding non-formal education. The 2013 Population and Housing Census identified six attainment levels within the formal education system ranging from early childhood to tertiary.

Table 3.3 shows the distribution of the population aged 3 years and older by sex and educational attainment. The data shows that 44.7 per cent of the population had no formal education and the proportion was higher for female whereas 2.2 per cent had tertiary education credentials. At the time of the census, persons whose highest level of educational achievement was primary and upper secondary school accounted for 22.3 per cent and 13.9 per cent of the relevant census population, respectively.

The table further shows that female educational achievement at the early childhood development and primary levels equalled or slightly surpassed that of male, but as the level of education increases, the proportion was higher for males.

Table 3.3: Distribution of the population aged 3 years and over by sex and educational attainment

Educational attainment	Count			Per cent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	338,033	420,771	758,804	40.7	48.7	44.7
Early childhood	34,534	36,373	70,907	4.2	4.2	4.2
Primary	183,804	194,121	377,925	22.1	22.5	22.3
Lower Secondary	101,836	95,802	197,638	12.3	11.1	11.7
Upper Secondary	138,884	97,009	235,893	16.7	11.2	13.9
Vocational	10,076	6,505	16,581	1.2	0.8	1.0
Tertiary*	23,848	13,142	36,990	2.9	1.5	2.2
Total	831,015	863,723	1,694,738	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Tertiary education includes study at diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

3.4 Educational Attainment of the Adolescent Population by Sex

Presented in Table 3.4 is the educational attainment of the adolescent population by sex. It shows that of the 102,995 adolescent males, 24.0 per cent had no education, 12.3 per cent had primary education while 38.3 per cent had lower secondary education and 24.5 per cent, upper secondary education. As expect the proportion with tertiary education was less than half a per cent. A similar pattern is observed for the female population but there were slightly more females than males with no education while higher proportions of male adolescents had had lower and upper secondary education than their female counterparts (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: Distribution of adolescents aged 15-19 years by sex and educational attainment

Educational attainment	Count			Per cent		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
None	24,746	28,570	53,316	24.0	25.7	24.9
Early childhood	217	273	490	0.2	0.2	0.2
Primary	12,684	15,032	27,716	12.3	13.5	12.9
Lower Secondary	39,406	39,936	79,342	38.3	35.9	37.0
Upper Secondary	25,205	26,524	51,729	24.5	23.8	24.1
Vocational	311	447	758	0.3	0.4	0.4
Tertiary*	426	487	913	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	102,995	111,269	214,264	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Tertiary education includes study at diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

CHAPTER 4: MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY

The concept of marriage is usually defined as “any type of conjugal cohabitation” (UNFPA, 1993). In The Gambia however, not all married couples live together. There are three types of contractual marriages in the Gambia: religious laws, traditional and legal.

The institution of marriage is almost universal in The Gambia. It takes place early especially for females. It is now generally accepted that early marriage has disadvantages such as promoting high fertility, disrupting female education and skills development thereby lowering incomes of females, and it is associated with high infant and maternal mortality rates.

4.1 Distribution of the Population 12 Years and Over by Age Group, Sex and Marital Status

Marital status was recorded as reported by respondents in the 2013 census. The reference population was all those aged 12 years and over. Table 4.1 below shows that, more males had never been married (56.7 per cent) as compared to those that were married (39.9 per cent). The reverse is observed for the female population where 55.8 per cent were married and 36.2 per cent had never been married. Females were more likely to be divorced, separated or widowed than males.

Table 4.1: Percentage distribution of population 12 years and over by sex and marital status

Age Group	Never Married		Married		Divorced		Separated		Widowed		NS		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
12-14	95.4	97.8	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.4	64,788	65,458
15-19	95.8	79.8	1.5	19.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.6	0.4	102,995	111,269
20-24	89.9	43.4	7.7	54.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	2.2	0.6	86,075	97,864
25-29	68.3	19.2	28.6	77.0	0.3	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.7	2.5	0.5	74,341	85,015
30-34	37.1	8.7	59.6	85.8	0.9	3.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	1.4	2.0	0.5	56,957	65,212
35-39	19.5	4.5	77.2	88.9	1.3	3.1	0.4	0.7	0.2	2.4	1.4	0.4	45,922	48,644
40-44	10.4	3.0	85.9	87.5	1.5	3.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	4.9	1.3	0.6	36,485	36,544
45-49	7.3	2.3	89.1	84.5	1.6	3.4	0.3	1.0	0.5	8.3	1.2	0.6	28,616	26,994
50-54	5.6	1.8	90.4	78.3	1.5	2.9	0.5	1.1	0.9	15.3	1.1	0.7	23,169	22,404
55-59	4.0	1.8	91.7	72.1	1.5	2.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	21.4	1.4	0.8	14,677	11,919
60-64	4.0	2.1	91.6	63.7	1.4	2.6	0.5	1.5	1.4	29.4	1.1	0.8	15,738	14,560
65-69	3.7	2.6	91.8	55.0	1.6	2.7	0.5	1.7	1.6	37.3	0.9	0.6	9,824	8,373
70-74	3.4	2.6	91.4	47.4	1.4	1.9	0.5	1.6	2.7	46.0	0.7	0.5	7,472	8,086
75-79	3.9	2.8	90.4	41.1	1.5	1.8	0.6	1.9	3.0	52.0	0.6	0.4	4,387	4,313
80-84	3.1	2.5	90.2	36.5	1.1	1.9	0.5	1.5	4.5	57.3	0.5	0.3	3,404	4,417
85+	3.5	2.9	87.3	31.2	1.2	1.2	0.4	1.8	7.0	62.6	0.3	0.4	3,275	4,504
NS	1.9	2.6	3.3	2.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.1	94.5	91.5	898	763
Total	56.7	36.2	39.9	55.8	0.6	1.8	0.2	0.5	0.4	5.2	2.3	0.6	579,023	616,339

4.2 Married Population Aged 12 years and Over by LGA, Sex and Type of Union

In all LGAs, the proportion of currently married in monogamous and polygamous unions is higher for females than males with the exception of Banjul LGA which has more males in monogamous union than females. The proportion of the currently married male population in monogamous unions ranges from 39.5 per cent in Basse to 52.4 per cent in Banjul. For the currently married female population those in monogamous unions range from 47.6 per cent in Banjul LGA to 60.5 per cent in Basse. For polygamy, it is least common in Basse LGA (27.5 per cent) among males and Banjul (55.6 per cent) among females.

Table 4.2 Currently married population aged 12 years and over by LGA, Sex and type of union

LGA	Monogamous		Polygamous		NS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Banjul	52.4	47.6	44.4	55.6	28.1	71.9
Kanifing	46.8	53.2	34.8	65.2	3.0	97.0
Brikama	44.9	55.1	34.9	65.1	30.3	69.7
Mansakonko	42.5	57.5	29.3	70.7	5.6	94.4
Kerewan	42.4	57.6	29.6	70.4	4.8	95.2
Kuntaur	40.6	59.4	32.0	68.0	50.0	50.0
Janjanbureh	43.0	57.0	30.9	69.1	1.8	98.2
Basse	39.5	60.5	27.5	72.5	3.7	96.3
Total	44.2	55.8	31.8	68.2	10.1	89.9

4.3 Marital Status and Residence

Table 4.3 shows that marriage was higher among the female population both in the urban and rural areas. For example, 51.2 per cent of females in urban areas and 62.5 per cent of those in rural areas (were in matrimonial unions compared to 38.2 per cent and 42.7 per cent of males in urban and rural areas respectively). The reverse holds true for the never married. There was no much variance between the urban and rural areas among those divorced, separated or widowed (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Percentage distribution of 12 years and over by sex marital status and residence

Marital Status	Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never Married	58.0	39.9	54.4	30.8
Married	38.2	51.2	42.7	62.5
Divorced	0.8	2.3	0.4	1.0
Separated	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5
Widowed	0.4	5.2	0.4	5.1
NS	2.5	0.8	1.9	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.4 Marital Union

Marriages in The Gambia are either monogamous or polygamous union. Polygamous marriages are where men take on more than one wife and is more common among Muslims. This subsection looks at the type of union of the ever-married persons. The incidence of polygamy is very common in The Gambian society just like many other sub-Saharan African countries. This long-standing cultural practice is deeply rooted in the African society and is widely practiced among Muslims and Christians alike in many parts of the continent.

Table 4.4 shows that, 66.6 per cent of the ever-married population aged 12 years and older were in monogamous relationships, while 30.3 per cent were in polygamous unions. Prevalence of polygamy was more common among the ever-married female population than males. This is explained by the fact when a man takes on three wives for example; three women would be reported as being in polygamous union.

The ever-married females in polygamous union constituted 35.0 per cent. By contrast, only 23.4 per cent of ever-married males reported being in polygamous union. A higher proportion of those in polygamous unions had two spouses—18.4 per cent of the ever-married males reported having two spouses while 24.7 per cent of females reported that their husbands had two spouses (Table 4.4)

Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of the currently married population aged 12 years and over by sex, and type of union

Type of Marital Union	Male	Female	Total
Monogamous	71.3	63.6	66.6
Polygamous 2 Spouses	18.4	24.7	22.2
Polygamous 3 Spouses	3.9	7.6	6.1
Polygamous 4 Spouses	1.0	2.5	1.9
Polygamous 5 or more	0.1	0.2	0.1
NS	5.3	1.5	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.5 Marital Union and Educational Attainment

The table below shows the population aged 12 years and over who were married by type of union—that is whether they were in monogamous or polygamous union by level of education. It reveals that of the ever married who were in monogamous union, 54.5 per cent had no education, 11.4 per cent had primary education, and 18.1 per cent had either lower or upper secondary education while 4.1 per cent had tertiary education. For the ever married who are in polygamous union, 75.0 per cent had no education, 9.5 per cent had primary education while 13.0 per cent had either lower or upper secondary education. Only 1.5 per cent had tertiary level of education. (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 Percentage distribution of ever married population aged 12 years and over by type of union and educational attainment

Educational Attainment	Monogamous	Polygamous	NS	Total
None	54.5	75.0	41.1	60.3
Early Childhood	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Primary	11.4	9.5	13.4	10.8
Lower Secondary	10.7	5.7	12.8	9.2
Upper Secondary	7.4	7.3	23.7	14.5
Vocational	1.5	0.7	3.0	1.3
Tertiary*	4.1	1.5	5.9	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Tertiary education includes study at diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

4.6 Fertility Rates

The term fertility refers to actual birth performance of females within a specific age group in a given population. Fertility rates of any given community or country is one of the important factors in determining population growth. The 2013 like the previous Censuses, addressed fertility questions to all females aged 12 years and over. However, international convention identifies 15 years as the starting point of reproductive age. Notwithstanding, the incidence of births among the age groups below 15 in The Gambia is considered important as both marriage and childbirth begin relatively early.

Presented in Table 4.6 are trends in age-specific fertility rates. It shows declining fertility among adolescents. Between 1983 and 2013, adolescent fertility rate declined from 200 per 1,000 live births to 86 per 1,000 live births, representing a decline of 57 per cent. Births among those aged 20-24 also declined from 293 per 1,000 live births to 234 per 1,000. On the other hand, births to women at core reproductive age groups—25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 increased during the period under review, declining again during the advanced reproductive age group 45-49 (Table 4.6).

Falling fertility among women below age 25 years is a sign of increasing female education, career development and delayed marriages, which is not only good for women's empowerment but also for survival status and health of babies, as well as for the economy. The total fertility rate over the years 1983 to 2003 has decrease from 6.4 to 5.4 and increased to 5.9 in 2013 (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Age specific fertility rate (per 1,000 live births), 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013

Age Group	1983	1993	2003	2013
15-19	200	167	103	86
20-24	293	272	223	234
25-29	285	276	261	296
30-34	222	221	224	271
35-39	161	159	156	191
40-44	77	75	70	82
45-49	40	38	34	34
TFR	6.4	6.0	5.4	5.9

CHAPTER 5: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

5.1 Economically Active Population

The economically active population also known as the **labour force** is the total employed and unemployed persons in the population. In other words, these are the persons available to the job market. An economically active person may be employed or unemployed at any given time. For the 2013 Population and Housing Census, employed persons were defined as all persons who worked or were on leave of absence during one month preceding the census. The economically inactive population on the other hand comprises of the homemakers, students, the sick, the old and persons with disabilities who are unable to work. For the 2013 Census, economically active persons consisted of all persons aged 7 years and over of either sex who provided information on production of goods and services during one month preceding the census.

This section examines the occupations of The Gambian work force. Children helping families on farms is a common practice in many developing countries and The Gambia is no exception, hence, questions on economic activity were addressed to all persons aged 7 years and above. As shown in Table 5.1, 53.2 per cent of the male population aged 7 years and older were economically active compared to 37.8 per cent of their female counterparts. The economically active population for the age bracket 7-9 was 10.1 per cent for males and 7.3 per cent for females. These were most likely children helping on family farms or in family enterprises.

It is also observed that a larger proportion of males were economically active than females in all age groups. The rate of participation in economic activity increases with age for both males and females up to the age range 45-49 after which it begins to decrease for both sexes (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Labour force participation rate of the population aged 7 years and over by age group and sex

Age group	Male	Female	Total
7-9	10.1	7.3	8.7
10-14	14.3	10.2	12.3
15-19	28.9	23.2	26.0
20-24	56.5	43.3	49.5
25-29	78.1	53.9	65.2
30-34	87.0	58.5	71.8
35-39	90.4	61.8	75.7
40-44	91.6	65.3	78.4
45-49	91.5	65.6	78.9
50-54	89.2	62.9	76.3
55-59	86.7	59.5	74.5
60-64	80.7	52.1	67.0
65-69	73.9	44.7	60.4
70-74	65.3	37.4	50.8
75-79	58.9	30.3	44.7
80-84	50.1	23.6	35.1
85+	36.8	14.6	23.9
NS	2.2	1.4	1.9
Total	53.2	37.8	45.3

5.2 Economically Active Population by Age group, Area of Residence and Sex

Table 5.2, shows the distribution of the economically active population by residence and sex. Overall, males had the highest share of the economically active population 374,706 people (57.3 per cent) whilst females accounted for 279,394 (42.7 per cent). Analysing the data by residence shows that 348,983 (53.4 per cent) of the economically active population lived in the urban areas compared to 305,117 (46.6 per cent) who lived in the rural areas, with males accounting for a higher proportion in both urban and rural areas. It is also vital to note that the economically active population begins to decrease after the age group 25-29 years. This was more so for males than for females. Majority of the economically active population falls within 25-29 age bracket (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Distribution of the economically active persons by age group, area of residence and sex

Age group	Economically Active (Urban)			Economically Active (Rural)			Total		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
7-9	926	721	1647	7,093	5,033	12,126	8,019	5,754	13,773
10-14	3,259	1,858	5,117	12,487	9,379	21,866	15,746	11,237	26,983
15-19	13,551	8,423	21,974	16,197	17,436	33,633	29,748	25,859	55,607
20-24	30,386	21,161	51,547	18,287	21,167	39,454	48,673	42,328	91,001
25-29	39,001	23,513	62,514	19,095	22,332	41,427	58,096	45,845	103,941
30-34	33,257	19,680	52,937	16,298	18,490	34,788	49,555	38,170	87,725
35-39	28,003	15,635	43,638	13,531	14,438	27,969	41,534	30,073	71,607
40-44	21,901	11,789	33,690	11,507	12,091	23,598	33,408	23,880	57,288
45-49	16,690	9,018	25,708	9,491	8,684	18,175	26,181	17,702	43,883
50-54	12,381	6,442	18,823	8,284	7,656	15,940	20,665	14,098	34,763
55-59	7,392	3,342	10,734	5,328	3,747	9,075	12,720	7,089	19,809
60-64	6,677	2,874	9,551	6,029	4,706	10,735	12,706	7,580	20,286
65-69	3,731	1,516	5,247	3,528	2,224	5,752	7,259	3,740	10,999
70-74	1,988	962	2,950	2,894	2,060	4,954	4,882	3,022	7,904
75-79	1013	419	1,432	1,570	886	2,456	2,583	1,305	3,888
80-84	583	309	892	1,124	733	1,857	1,707	1,042	2,749
85+	364	197	561	840	462	1,302	1,204	659	1,863
NS	14	7	21	6	4	10	20	11	31
Total	221,117	127,866	348,983	153,589	151,528	305,117	374,706	279,394	654,100

5.3 Gender and Occupation

Table 5.3 presents the gender differentials of occupation. More of the economically active females were engaged in ‘Services, Shop and Market Sales Workers’ and ‘Agricultural Workers’ groups than their male counterparts. This holds true for both Gambians and non-Gambians. This situation is partly explained by gender segregation of occupation where females are concentrated in occupations that generally attract low pay. On the other hand, males dominated in the rest of the occupational groups except for Clerical Support Workers, which females and males have equal proportion for Gambian nationals but a higher proportion for non-Gambian females (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Percentage distribution of the economically active population by occupation, sex and nationality

Occupation	Nationality					
	Gambians			Non-Gambians		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5
Professionals	4.5	2.6	3.7	4.2	5.0	4.4
Technicians and Associate Professionals	3.3	1.5	2.5	2.5	1.4	2.2
Clerical support workers	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.4
Services, Shop and Market sales workers	18.9	24.1	21.2	42.4	44.9	43.1
Agricultural Workers	33.3	56.3	43.5	16.2	28.8	19.6
Craft and Related trade workers	21.9	2.3	13.2	22.7	3.8	17.5
Plant/ Machine Operators and Assemblers	7.9	0.4	4.5	4.2	0.3	3.2
Elementary Occupations	3.2	5.4	4.2	5.3	8.5	6.2
Other	1.6	1.0	1.3	0.2	1.1	0.5
NS	3.8	5.1	4.4	1.4	5.2	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.4 Employed Persons by Age group, Area of Residence and Sex

Employment and unemployment statistics reflect the performance of a country's economy. It is against this background that the 2013 Population and Housing Census collected data on unemployment and employment amongst the active population.

Table 5.4 presents the employment rates by age groups, show that the age groups of 25-29 and 30-34 had the largest shares of the employed persons 15.6 per cent and 13.5 per cent respectively. A similar pattern pertains when the data are examined by sex or by place of residence.

The economically active population aged below 20 years and those above 65 had lowest shares of the employed economically active population (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Percentage distribution of the employed population by residence and age group

Age Group	Employed (Urban)			Employed (Rural)			Total		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
7-9	0.3	0.4	0.4	4.5	3.3	3.9	2.1	2.0	2.0
10-14	1.4	1.3	1.3	8.1	6.1	7.1	4.2	4.0	4.1
15-19	5.8	5.8	5.8	10.5	11.4	10.9	7.7	9.0	8.2
20-24	12.9	15.1	13.7	11.7	13.7	12.7	12.4	14.3	13.2
25-29	17.3	18.0	17.6	12.4	14.6	13.5	15.3	16.1	15.6
30-34	15.2	15.7	15.4	10.7	12.2	11.4	13.3	13.7	13.5
35-39	13.0	12.8	12.9	8.9	9.6	9.2	11.3	11.0	11.2
40-44	10.2	9.8	10.1	7.6	8.0	7.8	9.1	8.8	9.0
45-49	7.8	7.6	7.7	6.2	5.8	6.0	7.2	6.6	6.9
50-54	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.5
55-59	3.4	2.8	3.2	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.5	2.6	3.1
60-64	3.1	2.4	2.9	4.0	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.8	3.2
65-69	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.4	1.7
70-74	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2
75-79	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6
80-84	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
85+	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
NS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.5 Unemployed Persons by Age group, Residence and Sex

Table 5.5 shows the unemployed population aged 7 years and over, by age group, sex and residence. It shows that there were more females who were unemployed than males (60.5 per cent and 39.5 per cent respectively). This holds true in both urban and rural areas. Unemployment tends to be higher in the urban areas than rural. The age groups 20-24 and 25-29 had higher shares of the unemployed (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5 Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by Age group, sex and residence

Age group	Residence								
	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
7-9	3.8	2.5	3.0	2.0	1.6	1.8	8.2	4.2	5.7
10-14	5.0	4.3	4.6	3.0	2.9	3.0	9.8	7.0	8.0
15-19	12.4	12.5	12.5	11.9	11.9	11.9	13.6	13.7	13.7
20-24	25.7	24.0	24.7	29.1	27.0	27.9	17.6	18.2	18.0
25-29	20.6	19.6	20.0	23.4	21.2	22.1	13.9	16.4	15.5
30-34	10.8	12.8	12.0	11.4	13.1	12.4	9.1	12.1	11.0
35-39	6.1	8.5	7.6	6.1	8.3	7.4	6.2	8.8	7.8
40-44	4.0	5.5	4.9	3.8	4.8	4.4	4.5	6.7	5.9
45-49	2.9	3.4	3.2	2.5	3.1	2.8	3.9	4.0	3.9
50-54	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.2	3.4	3.1	3.2
55-59	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.3	1.7	2.0
60-64	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2	2.6	1.7	2.0
65-69	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.1
70-74	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.4	0.8	1.0
75-79	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.5
80-84	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
85+	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4
Total	15,401	23,616	39,017	10,877	15,654	26,531	4,524	7,962	12,486

5.6 Occupation and Type of Union

Table 5.6 below shows that for the economically active ever married population both males and females in monogamous unions are more involved in occupations such as agricultural work and services, shop and market sales; more females than males are engaged in both agricultural work (48.9 per cent, 24.1 per cent) and services, shop and market sales (29.4 per cent, 26.7 per cent). The same trend is observed for those in polygamous union with a slight difference between female and male proportions of services, shop and market sale, were males (25.0 per cent) have a higher proportion than females (20.8 per cent).

Table 5.6: Ever married economically active population aged 12 years and over by type of union, sex and occupation

Occupation	Monogamy		Polygamy		NS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.6
Professionals	5.8	3.5	3.9	1.1	7.6	7.5
Technicians and Associate professionals	3.4	1.5	2.5	0.5	2.7	3.1
Clerical support workers	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.4	1.0	1.7
Services, Shop and Market Sales workers	26.7	29.4	25.0	20.8	18.9	31.9
Agricultural Workers	24.1	48.9	40.4	67.3	23.6	36.5
Craft and Related Trade workers	22.4	2.3	14.9	2.0	5.9	1.8
Plant/ Machine Operators and assemblers	8.7	0.4	6.7	0.3	10.3	0.5
Elementary Occupations	3.4	6.3	2.7	4.0	5.1	4.7
Other	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.8	20.6	3.5
NS	2.1	4.9	1.6	2.6	3.6	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER 6: CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS

Headship of a household implies overall responsibility for the general well-being and personal development of all the members of the household. The characteristics of the head such as his/her income, educational level and occupation are therefore very important determinants of the household member's general level of health, comfort and security. The term household was defined for the purpose of the 2013 Census as "a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, share the same house-keeping arrangements and are catered for as one and the head of household as any person that the household members identified as the head" (GBoS, 2013).

This section examines household characteristics such as sex, marital status, education and occupation of household heads and household size. It attempts to compare and contrast female-headed households with those of their male counterparts. There were 157,494 in 2003 compared to 217,610 households in The Gambia according to the 2013 Population and Housing Census. This represents an increase of 38.2 per cent during the inter-censal period. The national average household size was 8.5 persons.

6.1 Gender of Household Heads

A better understanding of the divergence between male and female-headed households is essential for policy design and the targeting of interventions. There are important differences between male and female-headed households in terms of needs, constraints and opportunities for accessing and managing productive resources, services, and income generating opportunities. The phenomenon of female-headed households is also seen as a major policy issue as it occurs in contexts in which traditional family patterns are waning resulting in the majority of the poorest households being female-headed (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, IUSSP, 2001).

In the Gambia, males are predominant in the headship of households. This dominance may be due to cultural, religious and economic reasons. In the rural areas, male-headed households accounted for 84.5 per cent in 2003 and decreased to 83.1 per cent in 2013. The reverse holds true for rural female-headed households, which accounted for 15.5 per cent in 2003 and increased by 1.4 percentage points (to 16.9 per cent) in 2013.

Analysing the data by LGA, Basse recorded the highest proportion of male headed households with 87.9 per cent, followed by Kuntaur with 86.7 per cent. Banjul has the lowest proportion of male headed household with 74.5 per cent. Mansakonko recorded the highest proportion of female headed households, 30.4 per cent while Basse LGA recorded the least proportion of female headed households with 12.1 per cent (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Percentage distribution of household heads by LGA, sex and residence 2003 and 2013

	2003		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
LGA				
Banjul	75.0	25.0	74.5	25.5
Kanifing	75.6	24.4	74.7	25.3
Brikama	81.7	18.3	80.5	19.5
Mansakonko	75.5	24.5	69.6	30.4
Kerewan	80.8	19.2	78.8	21.2
Kuntaur	87.2	12.8	86.7	13.3
Janjanbureh	86.0	14.0	84.5	15.5
Basse	88.5	11.5	87.9	12.1
Residence				
Urban	77.4	22.6	77.1	22.9
Rural	84.5	15.5	83.1	16.9
Total	80.1	19.9	79.1	20.9

6.2 Household Size by Sex of Household head

Table 6.2 presents the percentage distribution of household heads by household size, sex of household heads and residence. It shows that generally, male-headed households were larger than those headed by females. For example, 34.0 per cent of male-headed households had 10 or more members compared to 22.3 per cent of female-headed households with 10 or more members. However, single-person household is more prominent among males than females in the urban areas whilst the reverse hold true in the rural areas. There is also a higher proportion of female-headed households with sizes ranging from 2 to 8 members. This also holds true for both urban and rural areas.

Table 6.2: Percentage distribution of household heads by size and residence

HH Size	Residence						Total		
	Urban			Rural			Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
1	13.3	7.3	11.9	3.3	4.2	3.5	9.9	6.5	9.2
2	7.6	9.1	8.0	2.1	6.2	2.8	5.7	8.3	6.3
3	8.2	10.7	8.8	3.1	8.1	3.9	6.4	10.0	7.2
4	9.0	11.2	9.5	4.6	10	5.5	7.5	10.9	8.2
5	9.3	10.8	9.6	6.2	10.9	7.0	8.2	10.8	8.8
6	8.4	9.6	8.7	7.7	10.6	8.2	8.2	9.9	8.5
7	7.3	8.1	7.5	8.2	9.8	8.4	7.6	8.6	7.8
8	6.1	6.6	6.2	7.9	8.0	7.9	6.7	7.0	6.7
9	5.1	5.4	5.2	7.4	6.6	7.2	5.9	5.7	5.9
10 +	25.7	21.2	24.6	49.7	25.4	45.6	34	22.3	31.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 Marital Status of Household Heads

Table 6.3 shows the percentage distribution of household heads by sex, marital status LGA and residence. As seen from the table, higher proportion of the female household heads were widowed compared to their male counterparts. This situation pertains across all LGAs and for urban and rural areas—21.4 per cent for female household heads against 0.6 per cent for male household heads (Table 6.3). In contrast higher proportion of male household heads were married compared to their female counterparts—88.0 per cent and 63.5 per cent respectively. A similar pattern is observed across all LGAs. In addition, more female household heads were divorced or separated compared to males. Fewer proportions of female heads had never been married compared to males.

Table 6.3: Percentage distribution of household heads by marital status, sex and Local Government Area

	Sex	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Total	
							Per cent	Count
LGA								
Banjul	Male	23.4	72.5	2.4	0.7	0.9	100.0	4,949
	Female	10.0	42.3	14.3	2.4	31.1	100.0	1,694
Kanifing	Male	16.8	80.6	1.5	0.5	0.7	100.0	44,918
	Female	8.8	55.5	10.2	2.5	23.0	100.0	15,185
Brikama	Male	8.4	89.9	0.9	0.3	0.5	100.0	66,012
	Female	4.7	64.8	6.8	2.6	21.2	100.0	15,994
Mansakonko	Male	6.2	92.7	0.6	0.1	0.4	100.0	6,731
	Female	3.3	76.1	2.6	1.1	17.1	100.0	2,937
Kerewan	Male	5.9	92.8	0.7	0.2	0.4	100.0	17,808
	Female	3.1	73.8	3.3	1.1	18.6	100.0	4,801
Kuntaur	Male	4.1	94.9	0.4	0.2	0.4	100.0	7,731
	Female	2.3	76.6	2.3	0.8	18.0	100.0	1,182
Janjanbureh	Male	4.8	93.9	0.7	0.2	0.4	100.0	10,017
	Female	2.5	74.2	3.6	1.0	18.7	100.0	1,832
Basse	Male	6.5	92.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	100.0	13,897
	Female	3.3	71.0	4.1	1.2	20.4	100.0	1,922
Residence								
Urban	Male	12.9	84.9	1.2	0.4	0.6	100.0	112,731
	Female	6.9	59.4	8.9	2.4	22.4	100.0	33,463
Rural	Male	4.8	93.9	0.6	0.2	0.5	100.0	59,332
	Female	2.6	74.9	2.5	1.3	18.7	100.0	12,084
Total	Male	10.1	88.0	1.0	0.3	0.6	100.0	172,063
	Female	5.8	63.5	7.2	2.1	21.4	100.0	45,547

6.4 Household Heads and Type of Union

While 70.3 per cent of the ever-married male household heads were in monogamous unions the share of female heads in monogamous union was 68.7 per cent. There were also higher proportions of male household heads in polygamous unions than females. For example, 23.0 per cent of the ever-married male heads had two spouses compared to only 22.0 per cent female heads whose husbands had two spouses.

Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of ever married household heads by marital status, type of union and sex

Marital status	Monogamous		2 Spouses		3 Spouses		4 Spouses		5 or more Spouses		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Per cent	Count
Married	69.9	65.1	23.3	24.2	5.3	7.7	1.5	2.8	0.1	0.2	100.0	180,243
Divorced	89.3	79.1	8.6	16.6	1.9	2.9	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.1	100.0	4,994
Separated	91.8	78.2	7.5	17.3	0.2	3.0	0.2	1.4	0.4	0.1	100.0	1,478
Widowed	85.6	75.1	12.1	17.6	0.7	5.2	1.1	1.8	0.4	0.3	100.0	10,597
Total	70.3	68.7	23.0	22.0	5.2	6.7	1.4	2.4	0.1	0.2	100.0	197,312

6.5 Educational Attainment of Household Heads

The educational level of the household heads is one of the factors that determine their access to gainful employment and hence the wellbeing of the household members. It also, to a certain extent, determines the occurrence of demographic events such as mortality, migration and fertility within the household.

Table 6.5 shows that 33.7 per cent of male households heads living in the urban areas have never attended school, compared to 59.8 per cent of those in rural areas. The proportion of male household heads who attended primary school in both rural and urban areas is 7.0 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively while those who had secondary education was 28.4 per cent for male heads in urban areas and 12.5 per cent for those in the rural areas. There was also 7.6 per cent of male household heads in the urban areas and 2.8 per cent in the rural areas who attained post-secondary level of education. Conversely, the female household heads in the urban areas - 12.8 per cent had no education compared to 13.6 per cent of those in the rural areas. While 6.0 per cent of those in the urban areas attained secondary level of education, only 1.3 per cent of female household heads in the rural areas had secondary education. There was also higher proportion of those with post-secondary education in the urban areas than in rural areas 1.6 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively (Table 6.5)

Table 6.5: Percentage distribution of household heads by sex, educational attainment and residence

Residence		None	Early Childhood	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Vocational	Tertiary	Total	Number of households
		Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	
Urban	Male	33.7	0.3	7.0	8.2	20.2	1.8	5.8	77.1	112,731
	Female	12.8	0.1	2.4	2.0	4.0	0.5	1.1	22.9	33,463
	Total	46.6	0.4	9.4	10.2	24.2	2.3	7.0	100.0	146,194
Rural	Male	59.8	0.4	7.6	4.8	7.7	1.2	1.6	83.1	59,332
	Female	13.6	0.1	1.8	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.2	16.9	12,084
	Total	73.4	0.4	9.4	5.5	8.3	1.3	1.8	100.0	71,416
Total	Male	42.3	0.3	7.2	7.1	16.1	1.6	4.5	79.1	17,2063
	Female	13.1	0.1	2.2	1.5	2.9	0.3	0.8	20.9	45,547
	Total	55.4	0.4	9.4	8.6	19.0	1.9	5.3	100.0	217,610

6.6 Occupation of Household Heads by Sex and Residence

The occupation of household heads is analysed and presented in Table 6.6 below. The data shows that 24.3 per cent of male household heads in the urban areas work in the ‘Services, Shop and Market Sales’ sector. Female household heads in the urban areas work more in the ‘Agricultural sector’ (19.6 per cent). The second most prominent occupation employing male and female household heads in the urban areas was ‘Craft and Related Trade’ and ‘Services, Shop and Market Sales’ sectors with 16.6 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively.

A similar pattern was observed in the rural areas with male household heads working more in the ‘Services, Shop and Market Sales’ sector (39.6 per cent) whereas female household heads work more in the ‘Agricultural sector’ (24.9 per cent). Agriculture accounts for the second most prominent employer for male household heads in the rural areas (7.9 per cent). For the female household heads in the rural areas, ‘Services, Shop and Market Sales’ was the second most prominent employer (4.2 per cent).

Table 6.6: Percentage distribution of economically active household heads by occupation, residence and sex

Occupation	Residence			
	Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.0
Professionals	4.5	1.2	4.7	0.5
Technicians and Associate Professionals	3.6	0.6	2.6	0.2
Clerical support workers	1.1	0.1	1.8	0.1
Services, Shop and Market Sales Workers	24.3	4.7	39.6	4.2
Agricultural Workers	4.0	19.6	7.9	24.9
Craft and Related trade workers	16.6	5.0	2.4	0.4
Plant/ Machine Operators and Assemblers	6.5	1.5	0.4	0.1
Elementary Occupation	2.6	0.8	5.9	0.8
Other	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.1
NS	1.1	0.2	2.0	0.2
Total per cent	65.9	34.1	68.3	31.7
Total count	101,032	52,187	19,024	8,846

6.7 Employment Status of Household Heads

Table 6.7 presents percentage distribution of the economically active household heads by employment status, residence and sex. The data shows that 68.4 per cent of female household heads were employed in the urban areas compared to 66.0 per cent for male headed households. The corresponding figures for those in rural areas were 34.1 per cent and 31.9 per cent for males and females respectively. For household heads employed for pay, the proportion in both places of residence was higher for males.

In the urban areas, 35.5 per cent of the male household heads were self-employed compared to 41.4 per cent female household heads. In the rural areas, the corresponding figures were 24.3 per cent and 25.9 per cent respectively, showing that female household heads are self-employed perhaps in the informal sector where they could combine reproductive work such as child care with productive work (Table 6.7).

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution of the economically active household heads by employment status, residence and sex

Employment status	Residence				Total
	Urban		Rural		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Employment for Pay	27.1	21.3	6.0	1.8	31.6
Self Employed	35.5	41.4	24.3	25.9	61.0
Employer	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	1.2
Unpaid Family Worker	0.7	2.2	3.1	3.6	4.1
Other	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
NS	1.4	2.7	0.4	0.4	2.0
Per cent	66.0	68.4	34.1	31.9	100.0
Count	101,032	52,187	19,024	8846	181,089

CHAPTER 7: HOUSING CONDITIONS

7.1 Household Tenure of Accommodation

As shown in Table 7.1, 45.9 per cent of male household heads in urban areas were renting compared 3.5 per cent of those in the rural areas. A similar pattern is observed among female household heads where 45.0 per cent in the urban areas rented their accommodations in contrast to 4.7 per cent of those in the rural areas. Slightly more female household heads than males in the urban areas owned their accommodation—44.4 per cent and 43.1 per cent respectively.

In the rural areas on the other hand, more male household heads owned their accommodations—89.8 per cent for male heads and 87.6 per cent for female heads. The proportion of household heads who occupied rent-free accommodation was split almost equally between male and female heads in urban areas but there was a slight variation among those in rural areas with more female heads occupying rent free accommodations (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Percentage distribution of household heads by tenure of accommodation, sex and residence

Tenure of accommodation	Residence						Total
	Urban			Rural			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Owner	43.1	44.4	43.4	89.8	87.6	89.4	58.5
Rent	45.9	45.0	45.7	3.5	4.7	3.7	31.9
Rent Free	11.0	10.5	10.9	6.6	7.6	6.8	9.5
NS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Per cent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Count	112,731	33,463	146,194	59,332	12,084	71,416	217,610

7.2 Source of Light

According to the census data, electricity served as the main source of light for both male and female-headed households—46.0 per cent and 55.0 per cent for male and female-headed households respectively. This was followed by battery-powered lamps—32.9 per cent and 27.9 per cent for male and female heads respectively. Candles also serve as a main source for a significant proportion of households – 15.8 per cent for male heads and 13.0 per cent for female heads. Solar generated energy was the main source for 3.8 per cent of male heads and 2.9 per cent of female heads (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Percentage distribution of households' main source of light by sex of the household head

Source of light	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Electricity	46.0	55.0	47.9
Kerosene lamp with shade	0.7	0.6	0.6
Other kerosene lamp	0.5	0.4	0.4
Candle	15.8	13.0	15.3
Solar	3.8	2.9	3.6
Battery powered lamp	32.9	27.9	31.9
Other	0.3	0.2	0.3
NS	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.3 Source of Water

Access to safe drinking water is a basic condition for the welfare of every community. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines safe drinking water as ‘water with microbial, chemical and physical characteristics that meet WHO guidelines or national standards on drinking water quality.’ This includes pipe borne water and wells fitted with pumps.

Households' sources of water vary. During the 2013 Population and Housing Census, 32.8 per cent of the households reported having access to piped water in their compounds whilst 21.4 per cent accessed water from public standpipes. A large number of households—13.7 per cent, accessed their water from public wells fitted with pumps. Looking at the data by the sex of the household head shows slightly higher proportions of households headed by females had pipe into their dwellings, in their compounds or used public standpipes compared to men. On the other hand, 7.1 per cent of households headed by males had access to wells without pump compared to 4.9 per cent of their female counterparts (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3: Percentage distribution of household heads by source of water and sex

Source of water	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Piped into Dwelling	6.2	8.1	6.6
Piped into Compound	31.5	37.8	32.8
Public Stand Pipe	21.3	21.6	21.4
Protected Well in Compound	9.4	8.1	9.1
Unprotected Well in Compound	6.7	5.9	6.5
Well with pump public	14.5	10.4	13.7
Well without pump public	7.1	4.9	6.6
Other	3.3	3.2	3.3
NS	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	172,063	45,547	217,610

7.4 Source of Cooking Fuel

About environmental conservation, government has over the years, been promoting the use of butane gas as an alternative source of cooking fuel for households. Although the level of usage is still limited, it has registered an increase during the last 20 years from 3.0 per cent of households in 1993 to 4.0 per cent in 2003, and dropping to the current level of 3.4 per cent in 2013. The slow progress in the use of this product is attributable to cost and other concerns such as safety.

Firewood remains the main source of cooking fuel for households in The Gambia irrespective of the sex of the household head (63.5 per cent). However, there is slight variation with 64.6 of households headed by males using firewood as the main cooking fuel compared to 59.1 per cent of those headed by females. The proportion of households using charcoal for cooking was slightly higher for female-headed households than males 28.9 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4: Percentage distribution of households main cooking fuel by sex of household head

Cooking fuel	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Firewood	64.6	59.1	63.5
Gas	3.3	4.0	3.4
Charcoal	23.3	28.9	24.5
Other	1.7	1.9	1.8
NS	7.1	6.1	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Count.	172,063	45,547	217,610

CHAPTER 8: GENDER AND DISABILITY

Disability is a sensitive issue in most African cultures because of the myths, misconceptions and superstitious beliefs concerning certain types of disability. In the past, and even in some African societies today, if a child is born with a deformity, it is deemed a result of evil spirits, a failure of the family to keep taboos, or some type of witchcraft. In some instances, infanticide is resorted to or the child is ostracised.²

In the 2013 Population and Housing Census, persons with disabilities were defined as those who were unable to, or were restricted in the performance of specific tasks/activities due to loss of function of any part of the body and mind because of impairment or malformation. Examples are persons with vision, hearing or speech impairment, physical disability, learning difficulties, strange behaviour and Fits. Questions on disability were asked for persons aged two years and above through the household heads or their representatives.

A disability could be partial or total, sensory or physical and an individual may suffer from one or more disabilities. A person was considered disabled if despite the use of supportive devices or aids (such as eyeglasses and hearing aids), the limitation or restriction could not be improved.

8.1 Types of Disability by Sex

Physical disability was the most prevalent type of disability for both sexes (32.7 per cent). This is followed by seeing and hearing difficulties with 26.4 per cent and 16.7 per cent respectively. There are slight differences between the sexes amongst those with physical, seeing, and hearing disabilities. For physical disability, hearing difficulties and ‘fits’—that those suffering from seizures—there are relatively higher proportions of females affected than males. While the reverse holds true for other forms of disabilities (Table 8.1).

² See for example African Studies Centre Leiden (2008). Disability in Africa
<http://www.ascleiden.nl/Library/webdossiers/DisabilityInAfrica.aspx>

Table 8.1: Distribution of persons with disabilities by type of disability and sex

Type of disability	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Count	per cent	Count	per cent	Count	per cent
Seeing	2,873	26.6	2,909	26.2	5,782	26.4
Hearing	1,724	16.0	1,931	17.4	3,655	16.7
Speaking	850	7.9	702	6.3	1,552	7.1
Physical	3,505	32.5	3,643	32.8	7,148	32.7
Strange Behavior	968	9.0	897	8.1	1,865	8.5
Fits	419	3.9	605	5.5	1,024	4.7
Learning Difficulties	115	1.1	95	0.9	210	1.0
Other	328	3.0	309	2.8	637	2.9
Total	10,782	100.0	11,091	100.0	21,873	100.0

8.2 Prevalence of Disability

The disability prevalence rate has decreased from 2.4 per cent in 2003 to 1.2 per cent in 2013 as shown in Table 7.2 below. These comparative rates also translate to 24 per 1000 persons and 12 per 1000 persons for the respective periods.

Table 8.2: Prevalence rate of persons with disabilities, 2003 and 2013

Type of disability	2003	2013
Seeing	0.9	0.3
Hearing	0.4	0.2
Speaking	0.2	0.1
Physical	0.5	0.4
Strange Behavior	0.1	0.1
Fits	0.1	0.1
Learning Difficulties	0.2	0.0
Other	0.2	0.0
Total	2.4	1.2

8.3 Prevalence of Disability by LGA and Sex

Presented in Table 8.3 below is the disability prevalence rate by sex and LGA. There is little variation in disability across sexes and LGA. Similar prevalence rates can be observed among females and males in the Banjul, Kanifing, Brikama and Janjanbureh LGAs whilst the prevalence rate among males is slightly higher than females in the Kerewan, Kuntaur and Basse LGAs. The data further shows that there is a higher prevalence rate among females than males in Mansakonko.

Table 8.3: Prevalence of disability among population aged 2 years and above by sex and LGA

LGA	Population (2 years and above)		Persons with Disabilities		Prevalence Rate		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Banjul	16,110	13,609	245	203	1.5	1.5	1.5
Kanifing	179,58	178,945	1,666	1,628	0.9	0.9	0.9
Brikama	324,851	325,112	3,547	3,691	1.1	1.1	1.1
Mansakonko	36,575	40,092	582	697	1.6	1.7	1.7
Kerewan	99,393	107,867	1,562	1,646	1.6	1.5	1.5
Kuntaur	42,987	48,337	687	718	1.6	1.5	1.5
Janjanbureh	56,581	61,824	786	882	1.4	1.4	1.4
Basse	106,00	117,957	1,707	1,626	1.6	1.4	1.5
Total	862,08	893,743	10,782	11,091	1.3	1.2	1.2

CHAPTER 9: GENDER AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Access to media can be defined as the right, opportunity or ability for someone to utilize an authentic means of communication for the purpose of gathering or disseminating information. The 2013 Population and Housing Census adopted the above mentioned definition and covered access to ICT, which includes Newspapers/magazines, radio, mobile phone, land line, computer and television. Questions on access to ICT were asked for persons 7 years and over.

In The Gambia, like the rest of the world, ICT has become an important tool in knowledge-based information society and contributed to the proliferation of businesses. The role of ICT in the development processes has been widely recognised. This is reflected in the development of a national ICT infrastructure, institutional and regulatory framework for managing the sector and promoting the use of ICT in all sectors of the economy.

9.1 Access to Information and Communication Technology by Age Group and Gender

Table 9.1a shows that, radio was the most important media for receiving information for eight in ten persons (87.1 per cent) compared to seven in ten persons (68.2 per cent) that had access to television. Males were more likely to read newspapers/magazines (18.3 per cent) than their female counterparts (11.9 per cent) reflecting the gender gaps in literacy. It is observed from the Table that with exception of the age group between 7-14 years, access to newspapers/magazines was higher for males than females.

Within the same age categories, males had more access to all the three media outlets than females. It is not surprising to note that younger people (up to those in the age group 30-34) form the majority of those with access to all three media outlets irrespective of their sex.

Table 9.1a: Access to ICT by age group and sex

Age Group	Newspapers/magazines			Radio			Television		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
7-9	3.6	3.6	3.6	76.3	78.0	77.2	61.1	62.5	61.8
10-14	7.1	7.2	7.2	81.3	84.8	83.0	64.8	67.1	65.9
15-19	16.5	15.4	15.9	87.3	89.2	88.3	70.5	70.8	70.6
20-24	25.2	19.3	22.0	89.8	90.2	90.0	75.0	72.6	73.8
25-29	26.7	16.7	21.4	90.2	89.8	90.0	74.7	70.6	72.5
30-34	27.1	13.8	20.0	90.5	89.6	90.0	74.0	68.9	71.2
35-39	27.4	12.4	19.7	91.3	89.6	90.5	72.8	67.4	70.0
40-44	27.3	11.0	19.1	91.2	89.4	90.3	70.6	65.1	67.8
45-49	25.5	9.5	17.7	91.4	89.1	90.3	69.6	66.0	67.9
50-54	21.9	8.1	15.1	91.0	88.8	89.9	66.2	62.8	64.6
55-59	21.4	9.0	15.8	91.2	88.8	90.2	65.6	64.9	65.3
60-64	17.0	6.2	11.8	90.6	87.2	88.9	61.6	60.5	61.1
65-69	15.5	6.3	11.3	90.7	87.7	89.3	62.5	62.1	62.3
70-74	11.7	3.8	7.6	90.4	84.1	87.1	56.7	56.2	56.5
75-79	9.3	3.8	6.6	89.8	84.2	87.0	55.4	58.2	56.8
80-84	6.6	3.1	4.6	88.5	82.8	85.3	50.1	52.3	51.4
85+	5.3	2.7	3.8	86.1	78.0	81.4	46.6	50.6	48.9
NS	0.2	0.1	0.2	4.2	6.8	5.4	2.8	5.5	4.0
Total	18.3	11.9	15.0	86.9	87.3	87.1	68.9	67.6	68.2

Table 9.1b shows that, 79.1 per cent of the population aged 7 years and older had access to mobile phones, 4.9 per cent have access to land phones and 10.9 per cent have access to computers. Over the last decade, there have been an increase in the use of mobile phones and a corresponding decrease in the use of land phones.

There were slight differences by gender with males being more likely to have access to both mobile and land phones than females. Access to mobile phones increases with age perhaps due to the cost associated to it—initial cost of the phone and buying credit to make calls and access the internet.

Table 9.1b: Percentage Distribution of Access to ICT by Age and Gender

Age Group	Mobile Phone			Land Phone			Computer		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
7-9	50.2	51.1	50.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.0
10-14	60.7	63.1	61.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	4.5	4.6	4.5
15-19	78.8	80.2	79.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	13.6	12.4	13.0
20-24	89.3	88.3	88.8	5.8	5.5	5.7	21.1	15.3	18.0
25-29	90.9	88.7	89.7	6.2	5.5	5.8	21.3	12.4	16.5
30-34	91.9	88.6	90.2	6.1	5.3	5.7	19.8	9.9	14.5
35-39	93.1	89.0	91.0	6.0	5.4	5.7	18.0	8.4	13.0
40-44	92.9	88.2	90.6	6.4	5.7	6.1	16.8	7.6	12.2
45-49	92.6	88.1	90.4	6.9	6.1	6.5	15.7	7.2	11.6
50-54	91.9	86.2	89.1	6.7	6.0	6.4	12.8	6.1	9.5
55-59	92.2	85.4	89.2	7.5	7.0	7.3	12.4	6.7	9.9
60-64	89.9	81.4	85.8	6.1	6.0	6.1	9.7	4.6	7.2
65-69	90.3	79.6	85.4	6.8	6.3	6.6	8.6	4.4	6.7
70-74	87.6	74.7	80.9	6.3	4.9	5.6	6.0	2.8	4.4
75-79	85.2	72.9	79.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	5.4	2.5	4.0
80-84	81.1	67.8	73.6	5.1	4.6	4.8	2.7	2.2	2.4
85+	75.8	61.3	67.4	4.5	5.5	5.1	2.8	1.9	2.3
NS	3.6	5.6	4.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2
Total	79.7	78.5	79.1	5.1	4.8	4.9	13.2	8.8	10.9

CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The struggle for women's empowerment is a fight against deeply entrenched ideologies, doctrines, customs and traditions. An acknowledgement of this fact leads to the inevitable conclusion that Goal 3 of the MDGs should be assessed more in terms of: firstly, whether the challenge has been identified or acknowledged; secondly, whether there is a firm commitment of all key stakeholders to confront the challenge; and thirdly, whether the right steps, institutions, acts, legislation or strategies are being put in place or implemented to ensure a speedy elimination of inequality and achievement of gender equity.

It is worth mentioning that between 2003 and 2013, female participation in education, in particular at the Basic and Upper Basic levels, increased considerably. This perhaps could be attributed to a number of significant interventions especially with the scholarship for girls programme. This increased level of female education resulted in a considerable decline in adolescent marriage and fertility levels. The proportion of females in managerial and professional as well as decision-making positions also increased during the period under review. However, compared to the males, females still lag behind in many respects.

Although there are no official policies per se that discriminate against women in education, ownership and control of assets, employment, etc. societal norms have strong influence on what opportunities and resources females can have access to. People's decisions and actions are often influenced by gender stereotypes, old customs and traditional perceptions of femininity and masculinity that are inhibiting gender equity and equality. There can be no meaningful socio-economic development if the status of women is not uplifted.

Probably the most important finding in this report is the overriding importance of education as the key to women's empowerment. Education has consistently been shown to hold the key to women's advancement in the economy, in leadership position, health and welfare, her confidence, self-esteem and a more egalitarian relationship in marriage. Concomitantly, higher education tends to lead to a rejection of the harmful traditional practices, which demean women such as Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), widowhood rites and undue subordination in marital affairs.

Recommendations

Education has been found to be negatively correlated with fertility. It provides women with the opportunity to seek jobs outside their homes making them economically independent thus according them with decision-making powers. Against this background, it is recommended that government and its development partners should make effort to:

- Continue to promote and encourage parents to send their girls to school and ensure retention to senior secondary level;
- Make efforts to implement programmes aimed at improving the economic conditions of women;
- Redistribute unpaid care and domestic work among couples and the state to allow women time for paid employment,
- Promote workplace child care programmes to allow women to fulfil both their biological and productive roles;
- Provide income generating activities and opportunities for women to improve on their earning capacity; and
- Intensify and scale up the scholarship programme to girls up to tertiary level especially for those whose parents cannot afford the cost of education;
- Provide gender awareness training for all teachers, educationist and parents to eliminate gender stereotyping in education system especially in choice of subjects;
- Encourage girls to take non-traditional subjects such as technical disciplines and mathematical sciences;
- Provide functional literacy and skills training programmes for illiterate women and girls out of school;
- Put in place an appropriate legal framework to protect the rights of women through the existing laws and policies.
- Research should be funded to provide the evidence based planning for gender equality and an engendered social policy and advocacy strategy mainstreamed in each of the programme areas.

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