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The Demography of Indians in the United States

SOME of the basic results of the 1990 Census of the United States have recently been published by the Bureau of the Census. One feels tempted to look into the various socio-demographic features of the population living in the United States. One of the area of interest for any Indian coming into the United States is to know how many Indians do live in here and located in which states/cities. There are two types of 'Indian' persons classified by the United States Bureau of the Census, the American Indian and the Asian Indian.

Fortunately race is one of the important social classificatory variable by which most of the census data are tabulated. The racial classification used by the Census Bureau adheres to the Federal Statistical Directive guidelines. American Indian includes persons who indicated their race as American Indian or reported their race as French-American Indian, Canadian Indian, or Spanish-American Indian. Basically these are the original Americans popularly known as the red Indians. They are now treated as tribals in the United States. Persons reporting their race as Bengali, Tamilian, Punjabi, Gujarati etc. were grouped into the category as *Asian Indian* i.e. persons from the present day India. This article attempts to look into their demographic profile based on data so far tabulated by the Census Bureau from the 1990 Census.

The 1990 Census of the United States with reference date of April 1,1990 was conducted primarily through self enumeration. The questionnaire packet included general information about the 1990 Census along with an instruction guide explaining how to complete the questionnaire. Each housing unit received one or two versions of the census questionnaire. The short form contained a limited number of basic items pertaining to housing and population. The long form questionnaire contained a number of additional questions in addition to the items of the short form and was received by about 17 percent sampled housing units. The mail-out/mail-back procedure was used in areas for which mailing addresses were available. The questionnaire was delivered by mail one week before the Census day (1 April, 1990) and the respondents were requested to return them by prepaid mail. The list/enumerate method (i.e. door to door enumeration) was used mainly in very remote and sparsely settled areas.

Racial Distribution

Race was determined on the basis of self identification of the person enumerated. White included persons who indicated their race as white or reported entries such as Canadian, German, Italian, Polish, Near Easterner, Lebanese, or Arab. Black included persons who

identified their race as Black or Negro or entries such as African-American, Afro-American, Black Puerto Rican, Jamican, Nigerian, West Indian or Haitian.

TABLE 1 : RACIAL BREAK UP OF POPULATION OF UNITED STATES, 1990

<i>Race</i>	<i>Total Population</i>	<i>% Distribution</i>
All Persons	248,709,873	100.00
White	199,686,070	80.29
Black	29,986,070	12.06
American Indian	1,878,285	0.76
Eskimo	57,152	0.02
Aleut	23,797	0.01
Sub-total	1,959,234	0.79
Chinese	1,645,472	0.66
Filipino	1,406,770	0.57
Japanese	847,562	0.35
Asian Indian	815,447	0.33
Korean	798,849	0.32
Vietnamese	614,547	0.25
Laotian	149,014	0.06
Cambodian	147,411	0.06
Thai	91,275	0.04
Pakistani	81,371	0.03
Indonesian	29,252	0.01
Malayan	12,243	0.00
Bangladeshi	11,838	0.00
Sri Lankan	10,970	0.00
All Other Asians	246,617	0.12
All Asians	6,908,638	2.78
Hawaiian	211,014	0.08
Samoan	62,964	0.02
Other Pacific Islander	91,046	0.05
Pacific Islander	365,024	0.15
All Other Races	9,804,847	3.93

Table 1 gives the distribution of the population of the United States in 1990 by race. It is observed that eighty percent of U.S. population consisted of White and about 12 percent were Black. The remaining eight percent of the population was Asian, Pacific Islander or tribal (i.e. American Indian etc.). Asians as a whole constituted about 2.8 percent of the country's population and the Pacific Islanders only 0.15 percent. The most numerous race among the asians is the Chinese follows by Phillipinose and Japanese.

815,447 persons returned their race as Asian Indian and constituted only 0.33% of United States' population. In 1980 the number of such persons was only 337,223. Since the natural growth rate of population of United States does not differ significantly by race, it is evident that the 110.6% growth in the number of Asian Indians (henceforth called Indians) during 1980-90 is mainly due to immigration. The statistics on immigration compiled by the U.S.

Department of Justice (Immigration and Naturalization) show that 250,786 immigrants from India entered United States during the decade 1981-90. Assuming that none of the immigrants returned back to India and there were no deaths, the number of such Indian in 1990 would have been 588,009 (337,223 + 250,786). The excess of 227,438 Indians in 1990 will, therefore, be due to births and immigrants during 1980-90 ignoring mortality. Since there will be some deaths and fertility will not be so high, it appears that the census returns in 1990 is far better than in 1980. Awareness among the minority groups to claim the benefits on the basis of ethnicity might be an important factor in reporting the race more meticulously during the 1990 Census enumeration.

Sexwise distribution shows that the number of Indian males and females increased from 193,463 and 193,760 in 1980 to 437,843 and 377,604 in 1990 respectively. In other words, the number of Indian males and females in the United States increased by 126 and 90 percent respectively during the decade 1980-90. It is rather difficult to assign any specific reason to the higher growth rate for males.

Break up of Asian Population

Table 2 gives the racial break up of Asians in the United States. Chinese have emerged as the largest racial group among Asians followed closely by Filipinos. 24 out of every 100 Asian in the U.S. is a Chinese. About twelve per cent of the Asians returned themselves as *Indians*. It is observed that irrespective of the race/country, most of the Asians (96%) live in urban areas of the United States. This is expected because of employment oriented migration of the Asians into the U.S. Like other Asians, only 38,622 or about 4.5% of the Indians lived in rural areas of the United States details of which are given in Table 3.

TABLE 2 : RACIAL BREAK UP OF ASIAN POPULATION, 1990

Race	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Chinese	1645,472	23.8	1605,768	24.3	39,704	13.2
Filipino	1406,770	20.4	1336,071	20.2	70,699	23.5
Japanese	847,562	12.3	793,189	12.0	54,373	18.1
Asian Indian	815,447	11.8	776,825	11.8	38,622	12.8
Korean	798,849	11.6	754,574	11.4	44,275	14.7
Vietnamese	614,547	8.9	597,323	9.0	17,224	5.7
Laotian	149,014	2.1	142,208	2.1	6,806	2.3
Cambodian	147,411	2.1	145,086	2.2	2,325	0.8
Thai	91,275	1.3	85,132	1.3	6,143	2.0
Pakistani	81,371	1.2	78,676	1.2	2,695	0.9
Indonesian	29,252	0.4	28,201	0.4	1,051	0.3
Malaysian	12,243	0.2	11,873	0.2	370	0.1
	11,838	0.2	11,626	0.2	212	0.1
Bangladeshi	10,970	0.2	10,507	0.2	463	0.2
Sri Lankan						
Other Asians	246,617	3.5	230,983	3.5	15,634	5.3
Total	6908,638	100.0	6608,042	100.0	300,596	100.0

Spatial Distribution of Indians

The Census Bureau defines 'urbanised areas' as comprising one or more places (Central Place) and the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory (Urban Fringe) that together have a minimum of 50,000 persons. Urban areas accordingly consist of all territories, population, and all places of 2,500 or more persons outside urbanised areas having a density of population of 1,000 or more persons per square mile. Table 3 shows that about 95% of the Indians live either inside or outside of urbanised areas. Forty percent of the Indians live in central places of the urbanised areas and about half in urban fringe.

TABLE 3 : DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES BY RESIDENCE, 1990

<i>Residence</i>	<i>Asian Indian</i>	<i>% Distribution</i>		
I. Rural	38,622	4.74	100.0	
(a) In places with 1,000 to 2,499 persons	3,855	0.47	10.0	
(b) In places with less than 1,000 persons	624	0.08	1.7	
(c) In other rural areas	34,143	4.19	88.3	
II. Urban	776,825	95.26	100.0	
A. Inside Urbanised area	738,855	90.61	95.1	100.0
(a) In Central place	327,210	40.13	42.1	44.3
(b) In urban fringe	411,645	50.48	53.0	55.7
B. Outside Urbanised area	37,970	4.66	4.9	100.0
(a) In places with 1,000 or more persons	23,526	2.89	3.0	62.0
(b) In places with 2,500 to 9,999 persons	14,444	1.77	1.9	38.0
Total Asian Indians	815,447	100.00		

The United States has a federal administrative setup consisting of 50 States and the District of Colombia (like a Union Territory in India). The federal States are grouped into four geographical regions and nine divisions. Table 4 gives the distribution of Indians among these regions and divisions. It is observed that more than one third of the Indians live in the north east region of which 87% live in the middle Atlantic division. This division alongwith the Pacific division of the West region account for more than half of the Indians in the United States.

Statewise breakup of Indians in the United States is given in Table 5. Although Indians have been enumerated and found in almost every state, it might be of interest in which of the states majority of them live. Table 5 gives the names of those states where more than one percent of the total Indians enumerated in the United States were counted. More than one third (about 37 percent) of the Indians were found to be living in the two states of California and New York alone followed by the states of New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Florida etc. These 17 states accommodated as many as 89% of the Indians in the country.

Since more than ninety five percent of the Indians were enumerated in urban areas of the U.S., it would be of interest to know in which of the cities do they live. The census results show that Indians were found in most of the urbanised areas. Table 6 gives the names of the

TABLE 4 : GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1990

<i>Regions/Divisions</i>	<i>Asian Indian</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>o Distribution</i>
I. North East Region	285,103	35.0	100.0
A. New England Division	36,282	4.5	12.7
B. Middle Atlantic Division	248,821	30.5	87.3
II. Mid West Region	146,211	17.9	100.0
A. East North Central Division	122,902	15.1	84.1
B. West North Central Division	23,309	2.8	15.9
III. South Region	195,525	24.0	100.0
A. South Atlantic Division	113,719	14.0	58.2
B. East South Central Division	15,053	1.8	7.7
C. West South Central Division	66,753	8.2	34.1
IV. West Region	188,608	23.1	100.0
A. Mountain Division	15,435	1.9	8.2
B. Pacific Division	173,173	21.2	91.8
Uniled Siales O+n+m+W)	815,447	100.0	

TABLE 5 : STATES HAVING ONE PERCENT OR MORE OF THE TOTAL ASIAN INDIANS

ENUMERATED IN THE UNITED STATES, 1990

<i>States</i>	<i>Total Population</i>	<i>Asian Indians</i>	<i>% Distribution of the Asian Indians among the slates</i>
1. California	29,760,021	159,973 (0.54)	19.6
2. New York	17,990,455	140,985 (0.78)	17.3
3. New Jersey	7,730,188	79,440 (1.03)	9.7
4. Illinois	11,430,602	64,200 (0.56)	7.9
5. Texas	16,986,510	55,795 (0.33)	6.8
6. Florida	12,937,926	31,457 (0.24)	3.9
7. Pennsylvania	11,881,643	28,396 (0.24)	3.5
8. Maryland	4,781,468	28,330 (0.26)	3.5
9. Michigan	9,295,297	23,845 (0.19)	2.9
10. Ohio	10,847,115	20,848 (0.59)	2.6
11. Virginia	6,187,358	20,494 (0.33)	2.5
12. Massachusetts	6,016,425	19,719 (0.33)	2.4
13. Georgia	6,478,216	13,926 (0.36)	1.7
14. Connecticut	3,287,116	11,755 (0.21)	1.4
15. North Carolina	6,628,637	9,847 (0.15)	1.2
16. Minnesota	4,375,099	8,234 (0.19)	1.0
17. Washington	4,866,692	8,205 (0.17)	1.0
Total Asian Indians in these states		725,449	89.0
Total in the United States	248,709,873	815,447 (0.33)	100.0

cities where 5,000 or more Indians were enumerated during the 1990 Census. The city of New York had the maximum of the Indians followed by Queen borough in the state of New York. The 14 cities/towns together had about one third of the total Indians in the*United States. Among them six areas are located in the state of New York.

TABLE 6 : CITIES HAVING 5,000 OR MORE ASIAN INDIANS, 1990

New York	New York	7,322,564	94,590
	Queen borough	1,951,598	56,601
	Brooklyn borough	2,300,664	15,641
	Bronx borough	1,203,789	11,051
	Manhattan borough	1,487,536	7,395
	Hempstead town	725,639	5,716
New Jersey	Jersey City	228,537	7,361
	Edison township	88,680	6,076
Texas	Houston	1,630,553	11,615
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	1,585,577	6,293
Illinois	Chicago	2,783,726	16,386
California	Los Angeles	3,485,398	17,227
	San Jose	782,248	10,672
	Freemount	173,339	5,577
Total in these cities			272,201
			(33.4% of Indians)

Demographic Characteristics

The U.S. Census Bureau tabulates population by a number of socio-demographic as well as economic variates. Till date, however, such details are available only with regard to age, sex, marital status, housing condition, and family/household type. Table 7 provides the percentage distribution of the Indians by broad age groups separately for males and females. Sex differentials in the age structure is not significant. About 64 percent of the females were 18 years and above but below 62 years as against 68 percent among males. Persons below 18 years constituted about 28 percent of the males as against 31 percent for females.

The census also gives the marital distribution of population aged 15 years and above separately for males and females. Table 8 presents the marital distribution of the Indians by sex in the United States. Percentage of population aged 15 years and above for the Indians in the U.S. in 1990 was 73 percent for females as against 76 percent for males. Among them 23 and 33 percent of the females and males respectively were not married. The proportion of widowed was higher for females as compared to males. For every 100 widowed males there were about 480 widowed females. Perhaps more number of widowed mothers lived with their children than widowed fathers.

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TABLE 7 : AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES BY SEX, 1990

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Person</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Below 5	8.53	8.13	9.00
5-9	8.79	8.28	9.39
10-14	8.24	7.81	8.75
15-19	7.48	7.26	7.74
20-24	8.69	8.76	8.60
25-29	10.51	10.60	10.41
30-34	10.54	10.73	10.32
35-39	10.02	9.94	10.11
40-44	9.09	9.30	8.85
45-49	6.61	7.37	5.74
50-54	4.34	4.99	3.58
55-59	2.57	2.77	2.33
60-64	1.74	1.64	1.88
65-69	1.26	1.07	1.48
70-74	0.77	0.65	0.91
75-79	0.45	0.39	0.52
80-84	0.22	0.20	0.24
85 and above	0.12	0.10	0.14
18 and above	70.03	71.56	68.26
62 and above	3.78	3.28	4.35
65 and above	2.82	2.42	3.29
All Ages	100.00 (815,447)	100.00 (437,843)	100.00 (377,604)

TABLE 8 : MARITAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN INDIANS (15 YEARS+) IN THE UNITED STATES, 1990

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Person</i>
Never married	110,006 (33.2)	62,697 (22.8)	172,703 (28.5)
Now married but not separated	208,549 (62.8)	188,601 (68.6)	397,150 (65.4)
Separated	3,371 (1.0)	3,176 (1.1)	6,547 (1.1)
Divorced	7,022 (2.1)	6,513 (2.4)	13,535 (2.2)
Widowed	2,895 (0.9)	14,110 (5.1)	17,005 (2.8)
All aged 15 years and over	331,843 (100.0)	275,097 (100.0)	606,940 (100.0)

One of the important tabulations provided by the Census Bureau is the distribution of population by family/household type. The population is classified into two broad i.e. those

TABLE 9 : DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES BY FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD TYPE, 1990

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
I. All Persons (I+II)	815,447	
I. In Households	799,896 (98.1)	100.0
1. Householder	237,800	29.7
2. Spouse	165,223	20.7
3. Child	285,306	35.7
4. Other relatives	76,341	9.5
5. Nonrelatives	35,226	4.4
II. In Group Quarter	15,551 (1.9)	100.0
1. College dormitories	12,307	79.1
2. Correctional Homes	582	3.8
3. Military quarters	438	2.8
4. Nursing homes	421	2.7
5. Other Institutions	1,803	11.6
Number of Families	193,379	100.0
1. Married couple families	172,455	89.2
2. Other families	20,924	10.8
Family Householder	193,379 (80.9)	100.0
Male	174,493	90.2
Female	18,886	9.8
Non Family Householder	44,421 (19.1)	100.0
Male	34,146	76.9
Female	10,275	23.1
Male living alone	22,328	
Female living alone	7,799	

living in Households and those living in Group Quarters. Persons living in the second category are those who are living alone in one of the recognised institutions such as college dormitories (hostels), nursing homes, military quarters, correctional homes etc. Those living in households are classified into family householder and non family householder i.e. those living alone in their own/rented houses. Table 9 provides the distribution of Indians in the United States by family/household type. 15,551 persons or about 1.9 percent of the Indians were found to be living in group quarters and among them about 79% live in college dormitories. About 81% of the householders had families out of which about ten percent reported female headed households. There were about 193 thousand Indian families of which about 89% were married couple families. There were about 165 thousand couples. About 14% of those living in households were either relatives or friends/nonrelatives and about 36% of them were children.

There were 22,328 males and 7,799 females who were living alone in their homes. 10,275 female householders reported to be living without husband. The average size of a household/family i.e. persons per household/family was 3.44 and 3.83 respectively. There

were 237,800 dwellings in which the Indians lived in the United States out of which about 126 thousands were owner-occupied and the rest were renter-occupied i.e. they were in rented accommodations.

Among the Indians who were enumerated in group quarters, 216 were in emergency shelters for homeless, 21 were in shelters for abused women, 27 were in drug/alcohol abused group homes, 74 were found to be visible in street locations, 103 were counted in correctional institutions such as jails, prisons etc., and 98 were enumerated in nursing homes.