COMITÉ PERMANENT INTER-ÉTATS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SÉCHERESSE
DANS LE SAHEL

PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE
FOR DROUGHT CONTROL
IN THE SAHEL

CILSS

INSTITUT DU SAHEL

Programme majeur population / développement (CERPOD)

RESEARCH REPORT

Démographic and Socio-Economic Profile of the Gambia

1960-2000

Central Statistics Department, Banjul (Gambia)

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of the Gambia

Baba SUWAREH

Ali CEESAY

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Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of the Gambia

(1960-2000)

Baba Suwareh*, Ali Ceesay*

Summary

The Gambia is a small country of 10,689 sq. km lying along the West Coast of Africa. It is bordered on the north, south and east by Senegal and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. The climate is one of a long dry season and a short rainy season characteristic of the Sahel. The rains which occur between June and October are usually low and erratic in distribution.

Agriculture constitutes the main stay of the economy and agricultural activities include arable farming, animal husbandry and fishing. Consequently, the government has since independence in 1965 prioritised the sector with emphasis on arable farming for increase cash crop and subsistence production. The objectives were to maintain a healthy balance of payment account and attain food self sufficiency and hence food security for the Gambian population.

Under declining environmental quality however, these objectives are yet to be fully realised. As one of the densely populated countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (97 persons per sq. km 1993), the intense human activity on land for both agricultural and non-agricultural purposes translates into falling environmental quality such as rapid deforestation, erosion of the soil and desertification, all of which are detrimental to sustainable agriculture. Lost of labour from agriculture to other sectors of the economy through rural-urban migration was on the rise over the years resulting to declining gross and per capita crop production. As far back as the early 1970's, policies and programs geared towards diversifying the economy were formulated and implemented to accommodate the movement of labour from agriculture on the one hand, and increase gross domestic output on the other. This led to the growth of the tourism and other service enterprises and the expansion of the manufacturing sector.

The high population density is a product of continued high growth rates of the population that the country experienced since independence. Fertility as measured by the total fertility rate (TFR) continued to be considerably high since 1983 averaging at least six live births. Correspondingly, mortality was on the decline particularly, infant and child mortality. The net effect was that Gambia's population remains youthful in structure with children under 15 years constituting more than 40 percent of the population since 1973. This translates into high dependency burden on the working age population and exerts pressure on social services such as health and education. Over the years however, health facilities and services have been expanded and strengthened with the involvement of both government and the private sector. The expanded programme on immunization (EPI) launched in 1979 aims to contain the main immunisable diseases among children and has been successful with 87 percent coverage of the target population by 1995. In the education sector, both government and the private sector continue to be relentless in their efforts to cater for the growing school going age population. The education of the girl child continues to receive special attention of government and over the years, net enrolment in primary schools have reached significant proportion of the target population (62.2%, males and 55.4% females by 1998/99).

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For sustainable development, population growth and economic growth need to be in harmony. Parallel to the programmes launched to promote economic growth, family planning programmes have received Government's backing since 1960s. In addition to services provided by The Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA), family planning services have been incorporated into the maternal and child health (MCH) programmes and provided in all government hospitals and major health centres. The ultimate objective is to retard population growth through fertility reduction. However, with TFR declining from 6.39 to 6.04 between 1983 and 1993, the impact of family planning programmes on fertility was minimal.

High fertility rates of the population translates into large family sizes and heavy burden on the economically active members of families/households. Inevitably, poverty is widespread in the population and the National Household Poverty Survey of 1998 documents that 55 percent of households and 69 percent of the population live below the poverty line. However, poverty alleviation is high on government's agenda with the setting up of an office mandated with formulation of strategies and co-ordinating programmes of poverty alleviation. It is hoped that the efforts of this office will soon produce a difference.

Introduction

The availability of and access to reliable data is a pre – requisite for sound development planning. In developing countries however, it is generally acknowledged that the availability of such data are limited and development planners are faced with limited information on which plans are based. Consequently, such plans do not produce desirable results and in the light of scarce resources, the pace of development in these countries is low.

On the other hand, it can be argued that huge amount of socio – economic data have been collected in most developing countries since independence. However, these data are widely scattered among national institutions and no attempt was made to have them all stored under one umbrella. Hence, to access such disperse data for sound planning becomes difficult.

The Demographic and socio - economic profile of The Gambia is a product of a project initiated and sponsored by the Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD). The project, namely "The Sahelian Profile" was launched in November 1999 in Bamako, Mali. Its aim is to create a Demographic and Socio – Economic Profile for each of the nine CILSS member countries, which will be centrally located in each country. With over two hundred indicators to be visited, it is hoped that the data bank could be revised and up – dated as and when additional data become available and would go a long way in easing access to valuable statistical information.

CONNAISSANCE ET UTILISATION DU CONDOM MASCULIN EN AFRIQUE SUB-SAHARIENNE
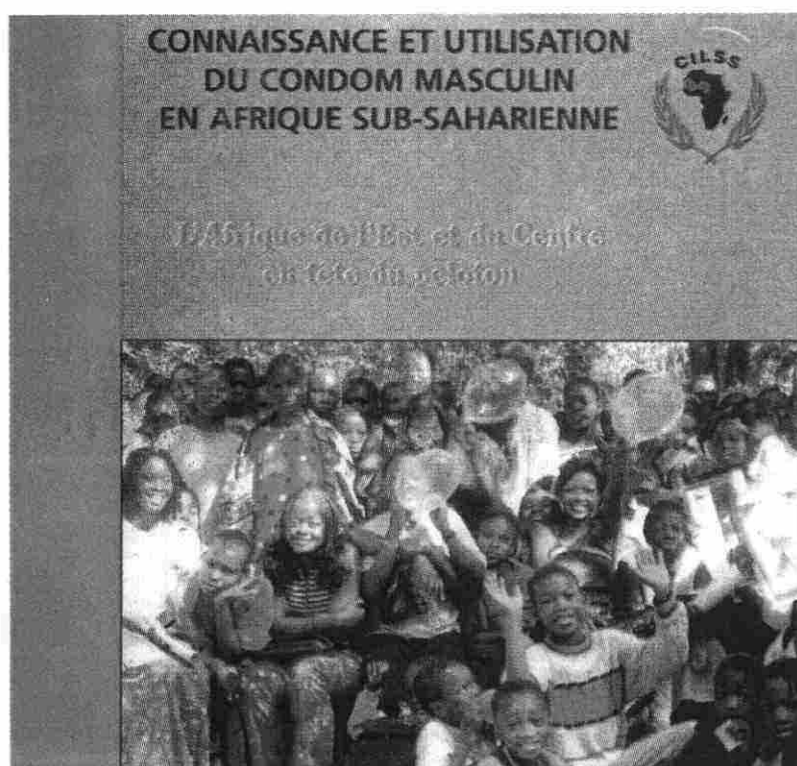
Chapter I

Methodology

In preparing this profile. no independent data collection was done. Instead. the profile was based on past studies carried out by national institutions (Government. NGOs and Private). As far as possible, national institutions were mobilised to furnish time series data for as far back as the early 1960s on each of the indicators. Given that the original data were earlier collected for other purposes. they may not exist in the format proposed by the profile. Hence, it became the task of the profile team to manipulate with these secondary data to suit the needs of the profile.

At the launching of the profile, it was generally agreed that an appropriate source for the health indicators was the DHS reports. However, as The Gambia does not still have a DHS, we relied on the limited data gathered by the Medical and Health Department from hospital and clinic records.

Since the 1990 Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinants Survey (GCPFDS), no comprehensive study on contraception was done. The Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA) did minor studies but the coverage of such studies was not nationally representative. Consequently, the profile relied on the GCPFDS.

The profile first draft was send to all national institutions who have inputted in it and to CERPOD for their comments and criticisms ahead of the national validation workshop. The useful comments / criticisms that emerged at the validation workshop were taken on board for the final version.

Before the facing out of the project however, final tables generated from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS: 2000) were made available to the profile team. These tables were used to fill in some of the data gaps and up-date certain sections of the document.

The Gambia Basic Data

	Unit of Measurement	1983	1993
Total Land Area	sq km	10,689	10,689
GNP Per Capita (at current mktp)	US $	165	360
Total Population	(Million)	0.68	1.04
Population Growth Rate	Annual %	3.4	4.2
Urban Population	% of Pop.	30.8	37.1
Population Density	Pop. Per sq. km	64	97.1
Population < 15	% of Pop.	45	44
Male/Female Ratio	Number	98.9	100.3
Total Fertility Rate	Births Per Woman	6.4	6.0
Unemployment Rate	% of Labour Force	na	3.84
Female Labour Force	% of Labour Force	na	3.47
Life Expectancy at Birth (Both sexes)	Years	43.1	59.3
" Female	Years	44.2	60.0
Crude Death Rate	Per Thousand Pop.	21.2	11.27
Crude Birth Rate	Per Thousand Pop.	50	46.2
Access to Health Services	% of Pop.	na	90
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	% of Pop.	na	12
Population Per Physician	Persons	na	15,269
Population Per Hospital Bed	Persons per bed	na	916
Under 5 Mortality Rate	Per 1000 Live Births	260	135
Infant Mortality	Per 1000 Live Births	167	84
Maternal Mortality	Per 100,000 Births	na	1,050
ORT use	% of Cases	na	60.5
Immunisation Coverage	% of 1-2 yrs	48.5	82
(Fully Immunised)			
Child Malnutrition (Rainy Season)	% of Age (< 5 yrs)	19[1]	13
Calorie Intake	% Requirement	na	86
Access to Safe Water			
Urban	% of Pop.	na	97
Rural	% of Pop.	na	50
Literacy and Education			
Illiteracy Rate	% of Pop.	74	59
Female	% of Pop.	85	73
Primary Sch. Enrolment Ratio	% of Sch. Age Pop.	61[2]	64
Female	% of Sch. Age Pop.	46[2]	53
Sec. Sch. Enrolment Ratio	% of Sch. Age Pop.	13[2]	16
Female	% of Sch. Age Pop.	7[2]	10
Primary Education	Pupils Per Teacher	23[2]	42
Secondary Education	Pupils Per Teacher	19[2]	24
Population of largest			
National town (Banjul)	Persons	44,188	42,326
Weight of largest town in the			
Total urban population (Banjul) %		20.87	10.98

Notes : * Provisional Estimates, [1] 1986, [2] 1982/83

Source : Central Statistics Department, Nutrition Unit, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Planning Unit, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs and 1993 World Development Report, World Bank

Chapter II :
Population status

2.1 Population size, growth and density

The post independence period of the Gambia was characterised by high population growth (one of the highest in the world). The three censuses taken since independence revealed intercensal growth rates of 4.6, 3.4 and 4.2 percent for 1973,1983 and 1993 respectively. One could partly attribute these to the high natural increase of the population as mortality declines over the years due to improvements in health, sanitary conditions and nutritional status of the population while fertility continues to run high. The effect of net-migration could be another contributing factor given that the proportion of the country's population that were non-Gambian in 1973, 1983 and 1993 were 10.5, 8.8 and 12.9 percent respectively.

One consequence of an increasing population is high population density. The enumerated population of 1,038,145 in 1993 reveals a population density of 97 persons per sq. km which, is among the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, at this rate, The Gambia's population is expected to double in 16.5 years.

Table 2.1 : Population size, growth and density in census years

Year	Population	Intercensal growth rate (%)	Density
1963	315,486	1.0	30
1973	493,499	4.6	46
1983	687,817	3.4	64
1993	1,038,145	4.2	97

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 2.1: Population Size in Census Years

Figure 2.2: Population Density in Census Years
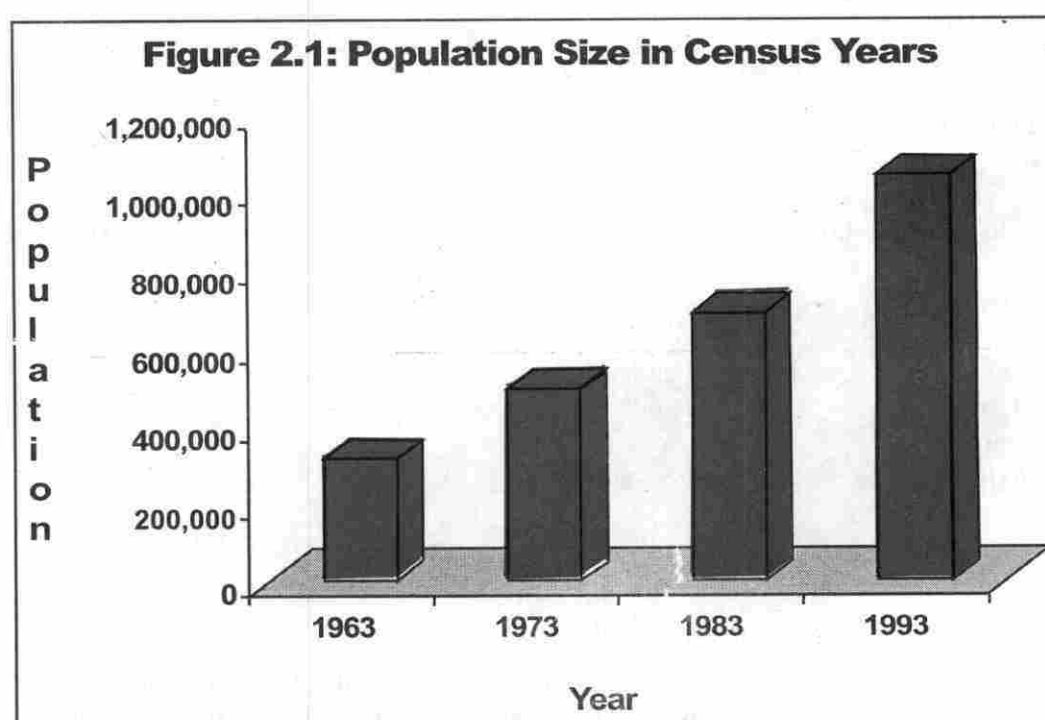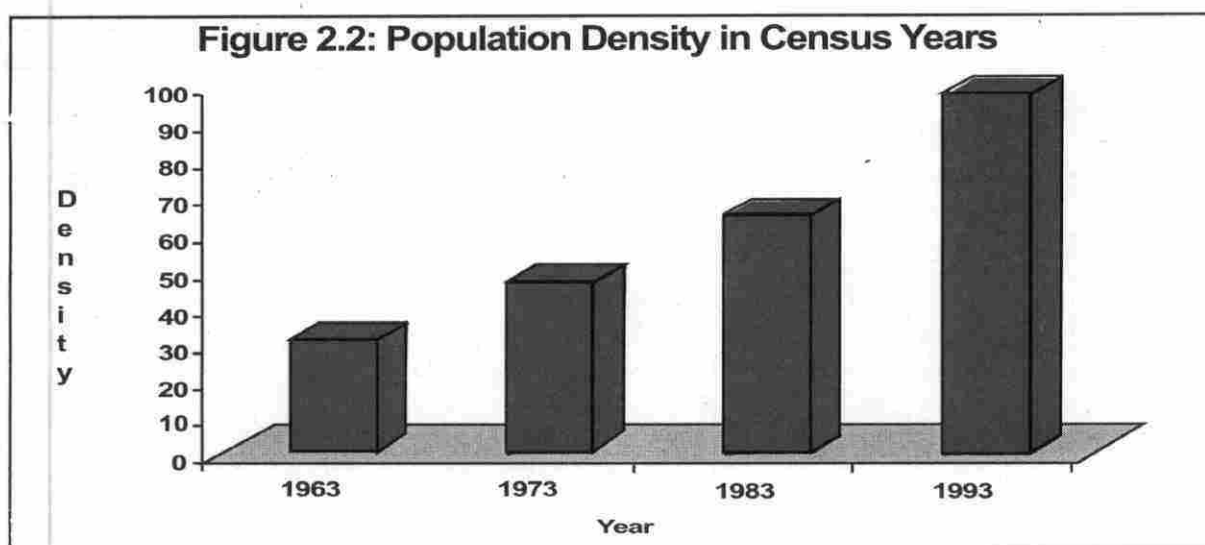
Table 2.2: Distribution of the Population by nationality; 1973, 1983 and 1993

| Nationality | Year | | | | | | | |
| | 1963 | | 1973 | | 1983 | | 1993 | |
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Gambian	279,931	88.7	440,716	89.3	623,859	90.7	896,135	86.3
Non-Gambian	35,555	11.3	52,002	10.5	60,796	8.8	134,118	12.9
Not stated	-	-	781	0.2	3,162	0.5	7,892	0.8
Total	315,486	100.0	493,499	100.0	687,817	100.0	1,038,145	100.0

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
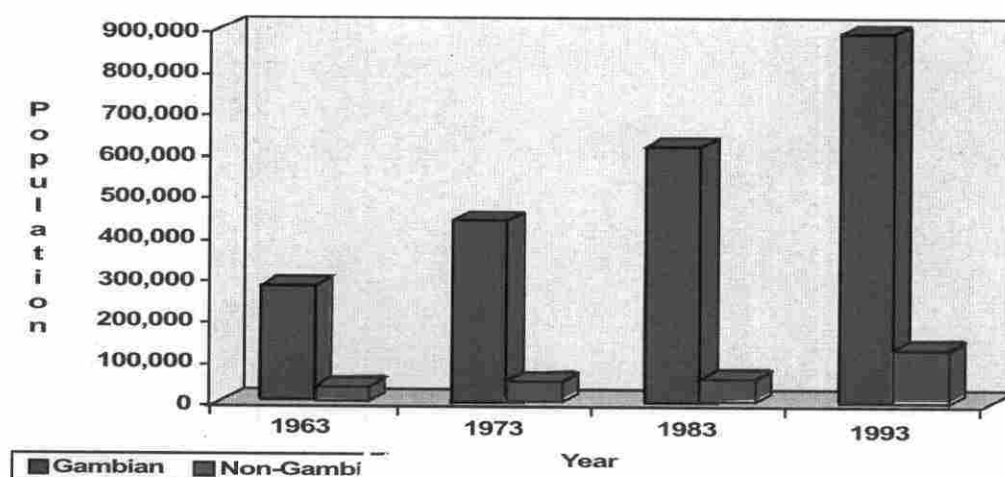
Table: 2.3 : Growth rates of Gambian and Non-Gambian population by Local Government Area during the decades 1973–1983 and 1983-1993

LGA	Nationality					
	Gambian			Non-Gambian		
	1963-73	1973-83	1983-93	1963-73	1973-83	1983-93
Banjul	-	1.1	-1.4	-	1.2	4.0
Kanifing	-	10.1	9.3	-	9.3	11.5
Brikama	-	5.0	5.0	-	-1.4	9.8
Mansakonko	-	2.9	1.1	-	0.5	8.1
Kerewan	-	2.2	2.7	-	-1.4	9.1
Kuntaur	-	2.2	1.5	-	-0.5	3.7
Georgetown	-	2.5	2.4	-	0.6	5.6
Basse	-	2.5	2.7	-	5.5	8.8
The Gambia	-	3.5	3.7	-	1.6	8.9

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Growth rates of gambian population by local government area

GROWTH RATES OF GAMBIAN POPULATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIE

Gambie

Kantaur

Georgetown

Basse

Kerewan

Mansakonko

Banjul

Karfing

Brikama

LEGENDE
1973-83
1983-93
10,1
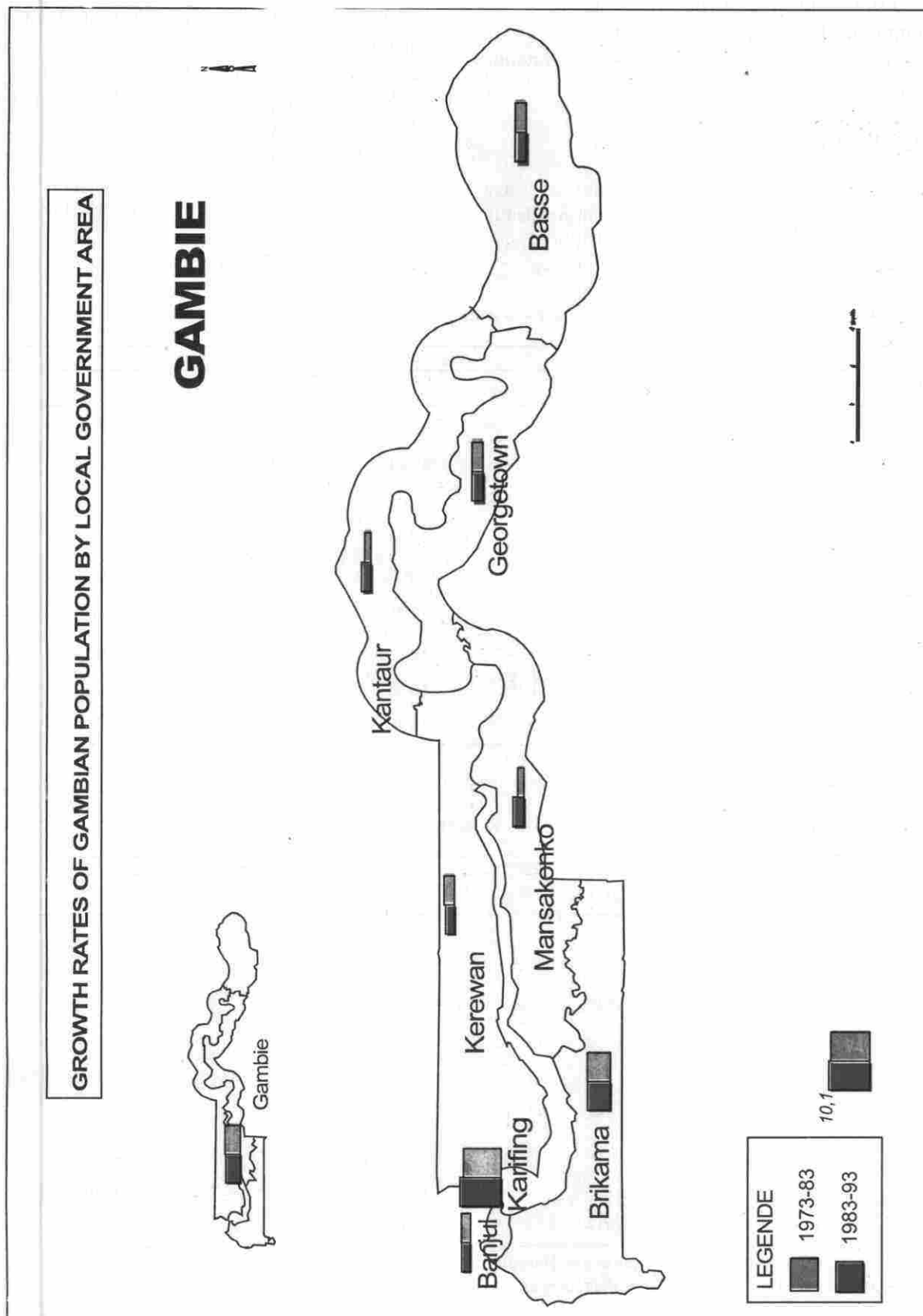
2.2 Population distribution

The distribution of a country's population between administrative regions, urban-rural, sexes and by age is important because it throws more light on the relationship that population has with socio-economic factors.

2.2.1 Urban-rural distribution

The 1993 Population and Housing Census reveals that 37.1 percent of the Gambia's population resides in the urban areas as compared to 30.8 and 22.9 percent in 1983 and 1973 respectively. Tables 2.4 and 2.5 below shows the urban and rural populations respectively by Local Government Area as enumerated in the post independence censuses and their corresponding annual intercensal growth rates. It would be observed from the tables that Banjul, the capital city recorded a negative growth rate of 0.4 percent per annum during the intercensal period 1983 – 1993. This is true because of the migration of people from the island mainly to Kanifing and Brikama Local Government Areas.

Table 2.4: Urban population of the Gambia by census years and intercensal growth rates.

LGA	Urban population				Annual growth rate		
	1963	1973	1983	1993	1963-73	1973-83	1983-93
Banjul		39,179	44,188	42,326		1.13	-0.43
Kanifing		39,404	101,504	228,214		10.06	8.44
Brikama		9,483	19,624	41,761		7.54	7.84
Mansakonko		2,667	6,911	10,206		9.99	3.98
Kerewan		7,707	17,895	33,102		8.79	6.34
Kuntaur		3,733	5,149	5,305		3.27	0.30
Georgetown		4,629	7,031	8,556		4.27	1.98
Basse		6,060	9,477	15,930		4.57	5.33
The Gambia		112,862	211,779	385,400		6.51	6.17

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
Note: The 1963 census did not disaggregate the population into urban/rural

Table 2.5: Rural population of The Gambia by census years and intercensal growth rates

LGA	Rural population				Annual growth rate		
	1963	1973	1983	1993	1963-73	1973-83	1983-93
Banjul		-	-	-		-	-
Kanifing		-	-	-		-	-
Brikama		81,530	117,621	193,156		3.73	5.09
Mansakonko		39,780	48,352	54,940		1.97	1.29
Kerewan		85,681	94,330	123,360		0.97	2.72
Kuntaur		43,936	52,445	62,469		1.79	1.76
Georgetown		49,603	61,379	79,691		2.15	2.65
Basse		80,107	101,911	139,129		2.44	3.16
The Gambia		380,637	476,038	652,745		2.26	3.21

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
Note: The 1963 census did not disaggregate the population into urban/rural

Urban population growth rates by local government areea

URBAIN POPULATION GROWTH RATES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIA
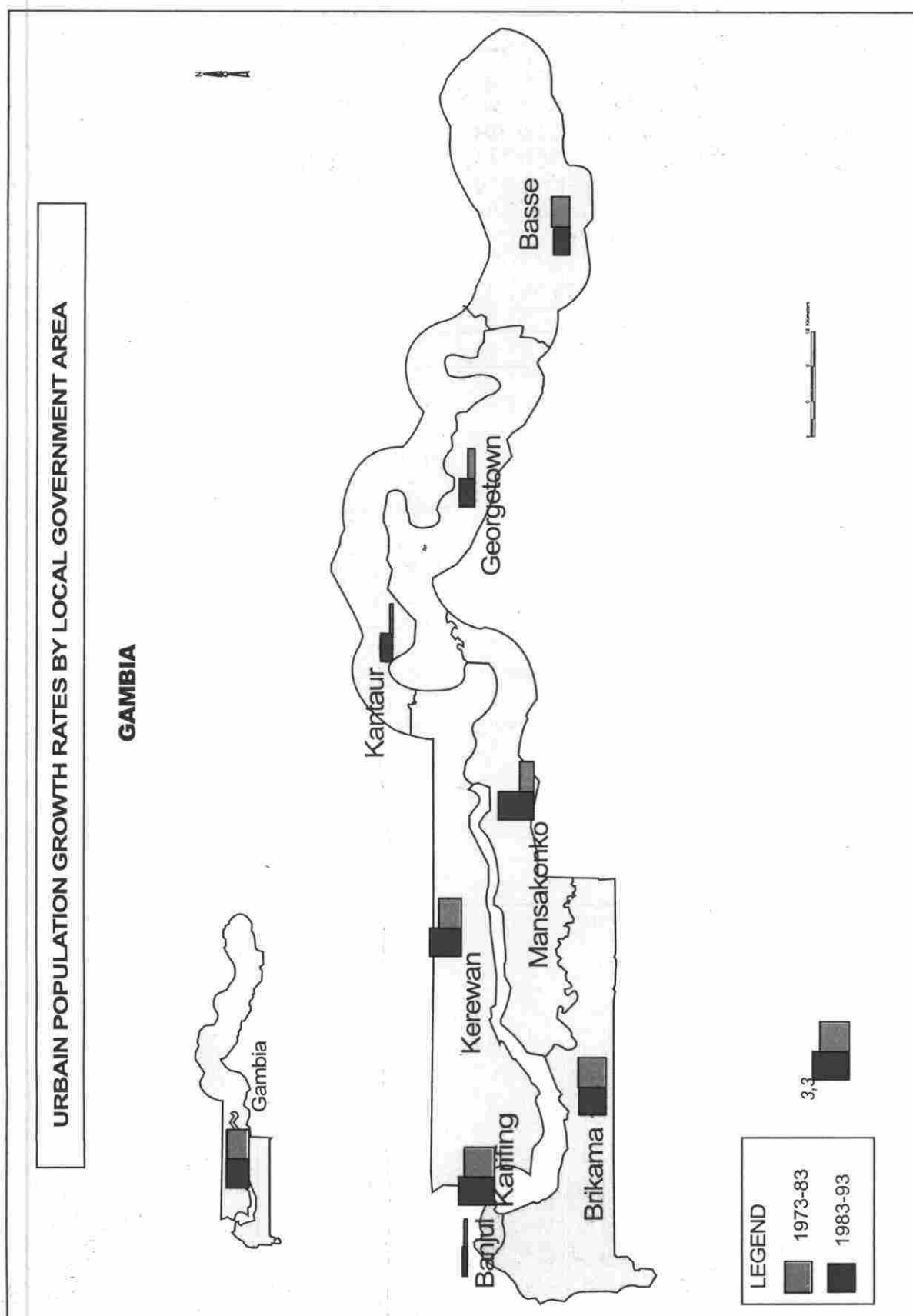
Table 2.6 below shows the degree of urbanisation per Local Government Area as enumerated in the census since 1963. Generally, the table shows that the pace of urbanisation was rapid in the western half of the country. It is important to note that until 1993, no standard criteria for defining urban settlements existed in the Gambia. In the 1993 census however, standard criteria jointly defined by the Central Statistics Department, Department of Physical Planning and other Ministries and Departments were adopted. By these a settlement was considered urban if it satisfied most of the following:

i)   Has commercial importance
ii) Has institutional importance
iii) Majority of the population should be non-agricultural in occupation
iv) Population should be 5,000 and above
v)   Density should be high
vi) Some degree of infrastructure should be available.

Table: 2.6 : Urbanisation of the population by Local Government Area; in census years

LGA	Population / Year							
	1963		1973		1983		1993	
	Total	% Urban	Total	% Urban	Total	% Urban	Total	% Urban
Banjul	27,809	-	39,179	100.00	44,188	100.00	42,326	100.0
Kanifing	-	-	39,404	100.00	101,504	100.00	228,214	100.0
Brikama	67,601	-	91,013	10.42	137,245	14.30	234,917	17.78
Mansakonko	34,227	-	42,447	6.28	55,263	12.51	65,146	16.67
Kerewan	63,045	-	93,388	8.25	112,225	15.94	156,462	21.16
Kuntaur	29,003	-	47,669	7.83	51,594	9.98	67,774	7.83
Janjanbureh	35,752	-	54,232	8.54	68,410	10.28	88,247	9.70
Basse	58,049	-	86,167	7.03	111,388	8.51	155,059	10.27
The Gambia	315,486	-	493,499	22.87	687,817	30.79	1,038,145	37.12

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Urbanization of the population by local government area

URBANIZATION OF THE POPULATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIE

Basse

Georgetown

Kantaur

Kerewan

Mansakonko

Brikama

Banjul

Kanifing

Gambie

LEGENDE
1993
1983
1973
100

Urbanization of the population by local government area

Figure 2.4: Urbanisation of the Population by Local Government Area in Census Years
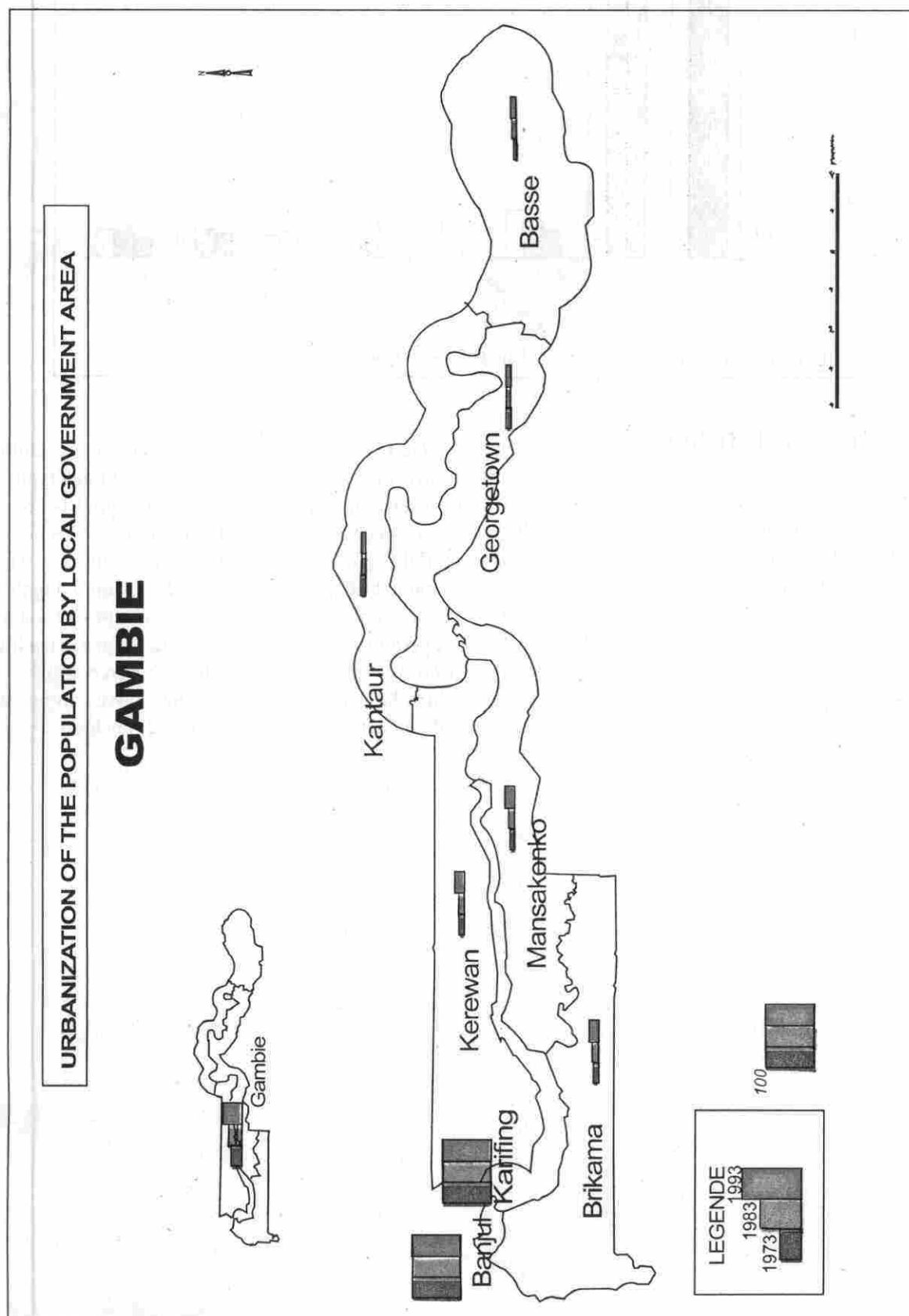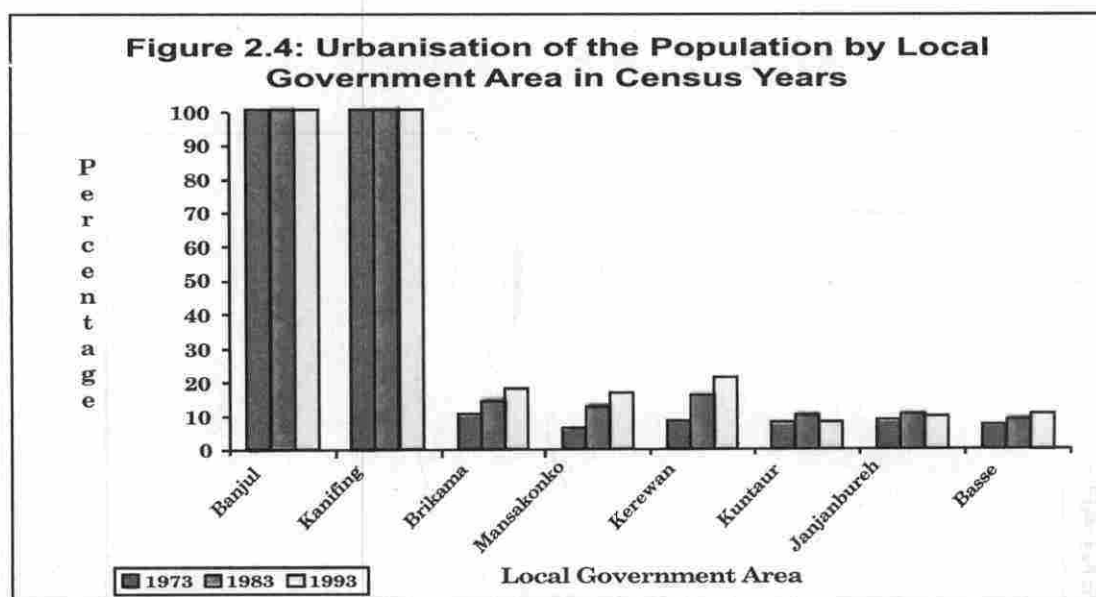
2.2.2 Age \ sex distribution

Age and sex constitute the two most important variables of a population for two reasons. Firstly, they determine and are being determined by the dynamics of fertility, mortality and migration of the population. Secondly, they have impact on socio-economic variables like education, health and employment. Apparently therefore, a study of the age and sex structure of the population is important.

The Gambia's population continues to be youthful in structure with an expansive type pyramid, typical of a developing country. Such a pyramid is broad based which is the result of high fertility and declining mortality particularly infant and child mortality. The pyramid also has narrow pointed apex implying that fewer people survive to old ages. The proportion of the Gambia's population under age 15 grew steadily from 41.3 percent in 1973 to 43.8 percent in 1993 while the population aged 65 and above was below 4.0 percent since 1973 (see table 2.8 below).

Table 2.7: Population by five year age groups in census years

Both sexes / age group	Year			
	1963	1973	1983	1993
< 1 year	44,517	17,147	18,134	29,047
1-4		65,836	98,654	139,170
5-9	44,275	73,260	111,451	163,791
10-14	29,794	47,455	72,782	122,653
15-19	60,235	40,773	630,070	108,525
20-24		43,237	58,539	91,368
25-29	62,319	46,720	60,858	88,049
30-34		36,411	44,949	65,266
35-39	33,486	26,777	33,093	49,453
40-44		23,764	29,678	41,696
45-49		15,978	20,161	29,042
50-54	41,066	16,336	19,704	26,197
55-59		8,446	10,336	14,826
60-64		10,673	13,504	18,165
65+		18,881	25,461	33,494
Not stated	0	1,805	7,443	17,403
Total	**315,486**	**493,499**	**687,817**	**1,038,145**

Source: Central Statistics Department; Banjul.
Note: The 1963 census broadly classified the population into seven age-groups viz: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45 and over

Table 2.8: Comparison of the working age population against children and the old age in census years

Age group	Year			
	1963	1973	1983	1993
0-14	37.59	41.28	43.76	43.80
15-64	-	52.53	51.45	51.30
65+	-	3.83	3.70	3.23

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: It would be observed that the percentages do not add up to 100. This is because of the exclusion of the «Not Stated» age category. For 1963, the calculation could only be done for the 0-14 age group because of the age classification used.

Figure 2.5: Population Age less than15 and 65 years and above by Census Years
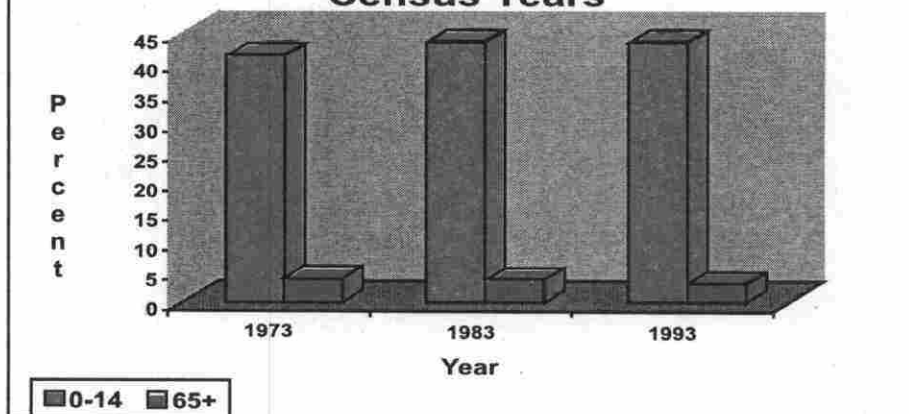
Another salient feature of an expansive type population is high dependency burden on the working age population (usually population aged 15-64) where dependency ratio is calculated as the ratio of the dependent population (children under 15 + elderly aged 65+) to the working age population. Thus, the a⋯ dependency ratio of 91.7 percent in 1993 implies that every 100 persons in the working ages had at least 91 dependents to support (see table 2.9 below).

Table 2.9: Age-dependency ratio in census years

Status	Year			
	1963	1973	1983	1993
Childhood dependency	-	75.69	85.06	85.37
Old age dependency	-	7.02	7.19	6.29
Overall dependency	-	**82.71**	**92.25**	**91.66**

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Note:　1. Childhood dependency:- dependency of children under 15 on the working age population (15-64)

2. Old age dependency:- dependency of the elderly (65+) on the working age population (15-64)

3. Overall dependency:- Total dependency on the working age population of both children and the elderly.

Figure 2.6: Dependency Ratio in Census years
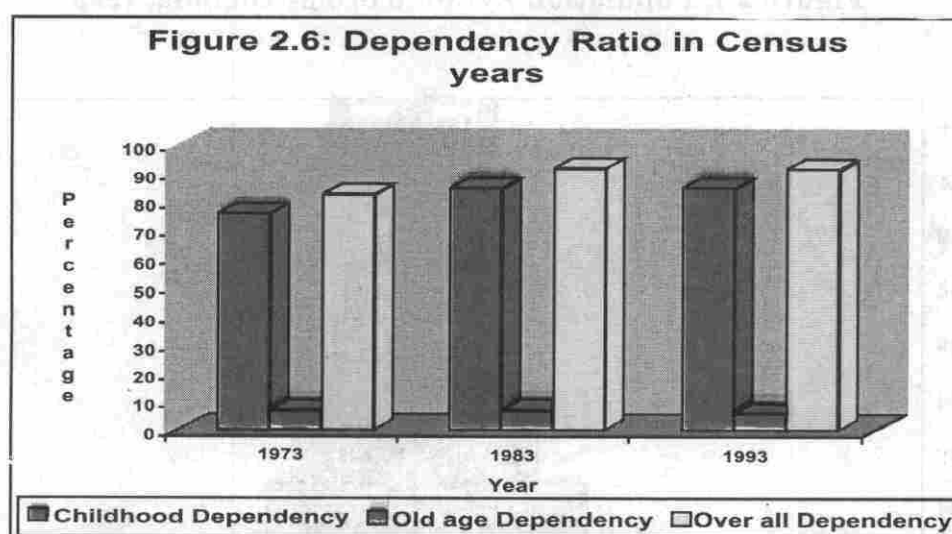
Table 2.10: Percentage age and sex distribution of the 1993 Population with the population under the «Not stated» Age Group pro-rated

Age group	Sex					
	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Total	519,950		518,195		1,038,145	
0-4	86,350	8.32	84,738	8.16	171,088	16.48
5-9	83,500	8.04	83,083	8.00	166,583	16.04
10-14	62,670	6.04	62,075	5.98	124,745	12.02
15-19	53,522	5.15	56,845	5.47	110,367	10.63
20-24	45,614	4.39	47,300	4.56	92,921	8.95
25-29	41,721	4.02	47,815	4.60	89,536	8.62
30-34	31,105	3.00	35,264	3.40	66,369	6.39
35-39	25,410	2.45	24,887	2.40	50,297	4.84
40-44	21,554	2.08	20,854	2.01	42,408	4.08
45-49	16,916	1.63	12,631	1.22	29,547	2.85
50-54	14,599	1.41	12,050	1.16	26,649	2.57
55-59	9,217	0.89	5,871	0.56	15,088	1.45
60-64	9,944	0.96	8,534	0.82	18,478	1.78
65+	17,828	1.72	16,241	1.56	34,069	3.28

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 2.7: Population Pyramid of The Gambia, 1993

Age Group	Male	Female
65+	-1.56	1.72
60-64	-0.82	0.96
55-59	-0.56	0.89
50-54	-1.16	1.41
45-49	-1.22	1.63
40-44	-2.01	2.08
35-39	-2.40	2.45
30-34	-3.40	3.00
25-29	-4.60	4.02
20-24	-4.56	4.39
15-19	-5.47	5.15
10-14	-5.98	6.04
5-9	-8.00	8.04
0-4	-8.16	8.32

Percentage

□ Male □ Female
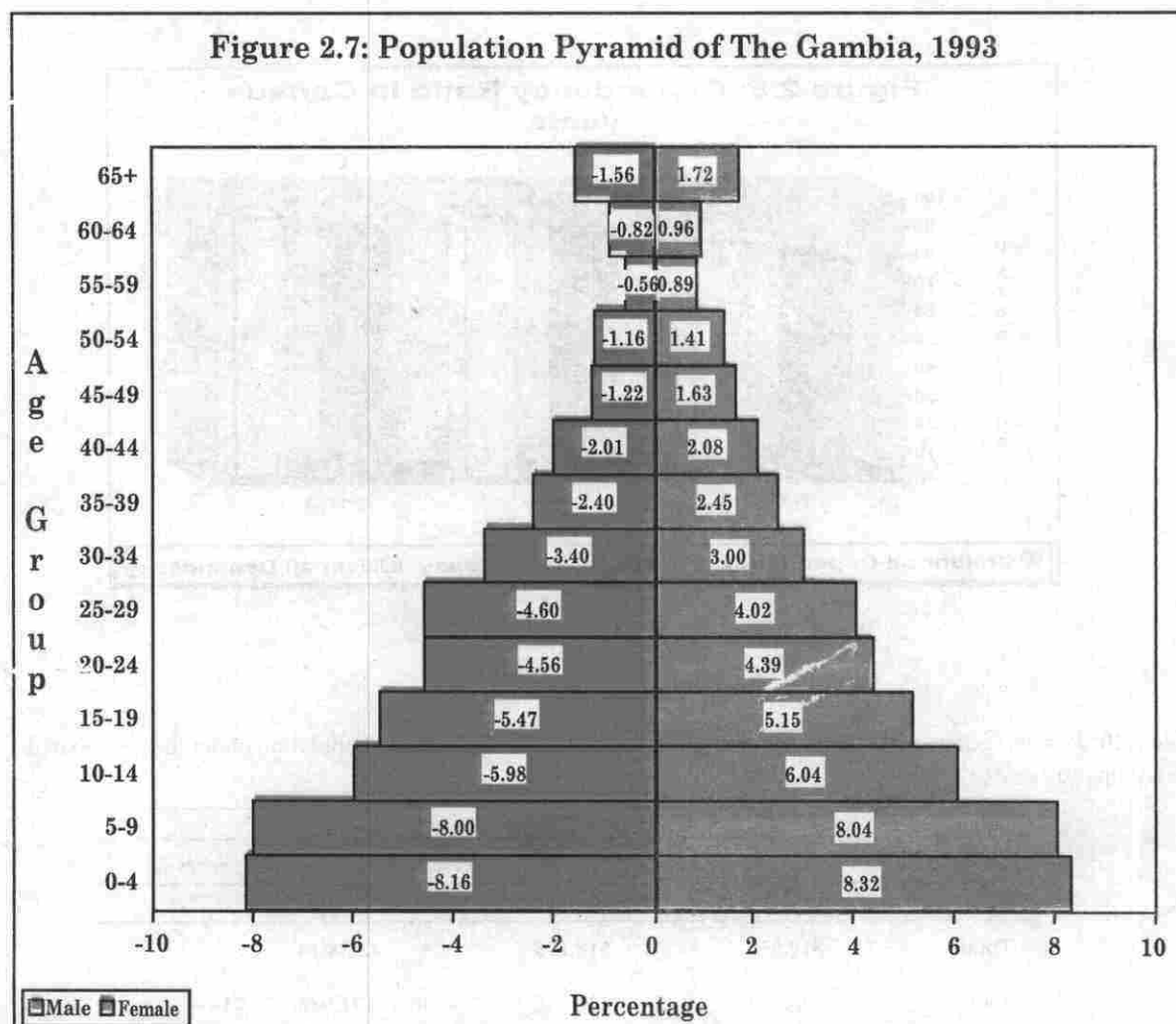
Analysis of the sex structure in table 2.12 revealed that females constituted 49.9 percent of the population in 1993, which was a decline from 50.3 percent in 1983. In fact, for all censuses taken since 1963, males outnumber females except in 1983 when females were dominant. However, a close look at the age/sex structure in table 2.11 would show that in the middle ages of 15-34, there were more females in the population than males in all four censuses. Thus, this may be explained by the effect of net migration given that migration is age/sex selective. Furthermore, table 2.12 shows a declining trend in the overall sex ratio during the twenty year period 1963 – 1983 which slightly rose again in 1993 while the sex ratio at birth which increased from 100 in 1973 to 104 in 1983 remain constant at that level in 1993.

Table 2.11: Population by five year age groups and sex, in census years

Age group	Male				Female			
	1963	1973	1983	1993	1963	1973	1983	1993
0-1		8,556	9,262	14,817		8,591	8,872	14,230
1-4	22,253	32,676	49,160	69,882	22,264	33,160	49,494	69,288
5-9	22454	36,825	55,639	81,904	21,821	36,435	55,812	81,887
10-14	15.454	24,587	37,514	61,472	14,340	22,868	5,268	61,181
15-19		19,419	29,398	52,499		21,354	33,672	56,026
20-24	27,044	20,187	27,187	44,742	33,191	22,420	31,352	46,626
25-29		22,192	27,770	40,923		24,528	33,088	47,126
30-34	29,438	18,190	20,920	30,510	32,681	18,221	24,029	34,756
35-39		14,052	16,973	24,924		12,725	16,120	24,529
40-44	18,678	12,343	14,999	21,142	14,802	11,421	14,679	20,554
45-49		9,147	11,330	16,593		6,831	8,831	12,449
50-54		8,923	10,415	14,320		7,413	9,289	11,877
55-59		5,276	6,164	9,041		3,170	4,172	5,785
60-64	25,528	5,973	7,330	9,754	15,538	4,700	6,174	8,411
65+		10,545	13,808	17,487		8,336	11,657	16,007
Not stated	0	865	4,269	9,940	0	940	3,174	7,463
Total	160,849	250,386	342,134	519,950	154,637	243,113	345,683	518,195

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: The 1963 census broadly classified the population into seven age-groups viz: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45 and over

Table 2.12: Percentage distribution of the population by sex, 1973, 1983 and 1993.

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)	Sex ratio (overall)	Sex ratio (at birth)
1963	50.98	49.02	104	
1973	50.74	49.26	103	100
1983	49.74	50.26	99	104
1993	50.08	49.92	100	104

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Figure 2.8: Sex Ratio of The Population in Census years
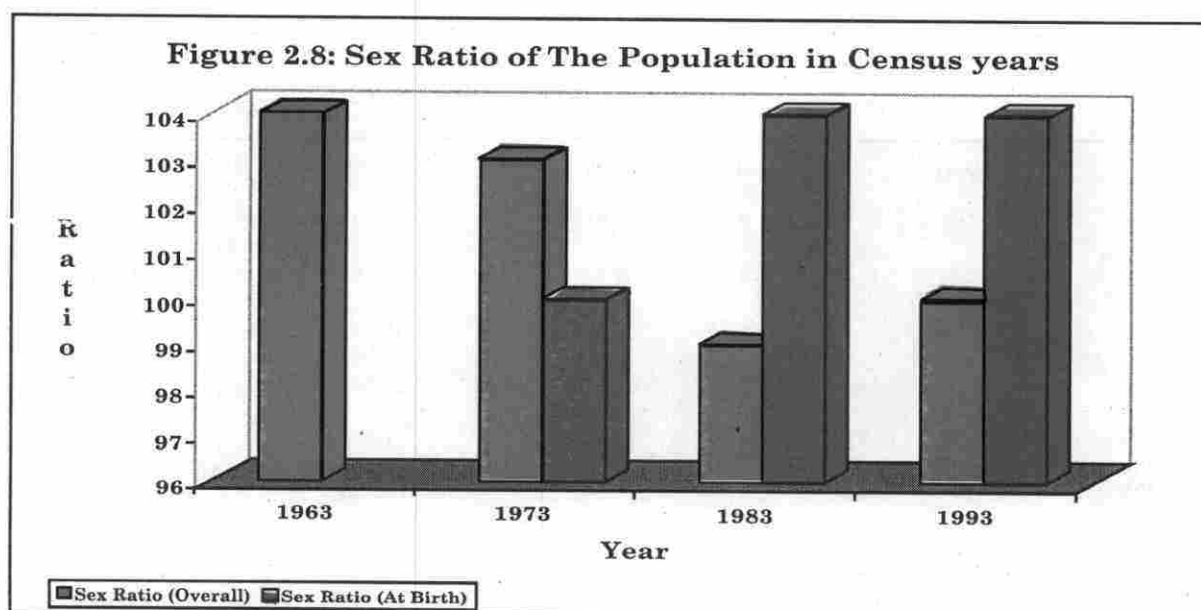
Table 2.13 pictured the overall sex ratio by Local Government Area. In general, the table shows high sex ratios (greater than 100) in Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama Local Government Areas. This conforms with expectations as male labour continued to migrate from rural villages to these LGAs in pursuit of better economic opportunities.

Table 2.13: Sex ratio by Local Government Area and residence

LGA	1963			1973			1983			1993		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Banjul	-	-	109	-	-	108	-	-	106	111	-	111
Kanifing	-	-	-	-	-	111	-	-	106	108	-	108
Brikama	-	-	109	-	-	104	-	-	100	103	103	103
Mansakonko	-	-	97	-	-	96	-	-	95	103	93	94
Kerewan	-	-	104	-	-	101	-	-	96	102	95	97
Kuntaur	-	-	108	-	-	105	-	-	101	94	97	97
Georgetown	-	-	106	-	-	106	-	-	100	105	97	98
Basse	-	-	98	-	-	99	-	-	92	110	92	93
The Gambia	-	-	104	-	-	103	-	-	99	107	97	100

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

2.3 Household characteristics

A total of 116,001 households were enumerated in the 1993 census as compared to 81,719 in 1983 and 59,450 in 1973. Of these, female headed households accounted for 15.9 and 13.3 percent in 1993 and 1983 respectively. Table 2.15 shows the proportion of female heads of households in the Local Government Areas. It is clear from the table that in the capital city Banjul, a quarter of the households were female headed since 1983. In fact in all Local Government Areas across the country, there has been significant increase in the proportion of female heads of households over the decade 1983-1993. However, migration among males to the urban centres and overseas may be an explanation to this.

Table 2.14: Distribution of households by Local Government Area (LGA) in census years

LGA	Number of households			
	1963	1973	1983	1993
Banjul	-	6,984	8,026	7,032
Kanifing	-	6,737	16,549	31,426
Brikama	-	11,422	15,755	25,649
Mansakonko	-	4,860	6,608	8,227
Kerewan	-	11,090	12,788	16,695
Kuntaur	-	5,407	6,018	6,744
Jangjangbureh	-	5,695	7,259	8,836
Basse	-	7,255	8,716	11,392
The Gambia	-	59,450	81,719	116,001

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Table 2.15: Proportion of female heads of households by Local Government Area in census years

LGA	1963	1973	1983	1993
Banjul	-	-	24.6	25.1
Kanifing	-	-	16.5	18.0
Brikama	-	-	12.8	15.1
Mansakonko	-	-	12.2	22.1
Kerewan	-	-	12.6	15.2
Kuntaur	-	-	8.0	9.6
Jangjangbureh	-	-	8.5	12.2
Basse	-	-	7.5	9.2
Urban	-	-	-	19.4
Rural	-	-	-	12.8
The Gambia	-	-	13.3	15.9

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Proportion of female heads of households by local government area

Proportion of female heads of households by local government AREA

GAMBIE

Gambie

Banjul

Kanifing

Kerewan

Kantaur

Mansakonko

Brikama

Georgetown

Basse

LEGENDE
1993
1983
25

Average household size by local government area

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIE
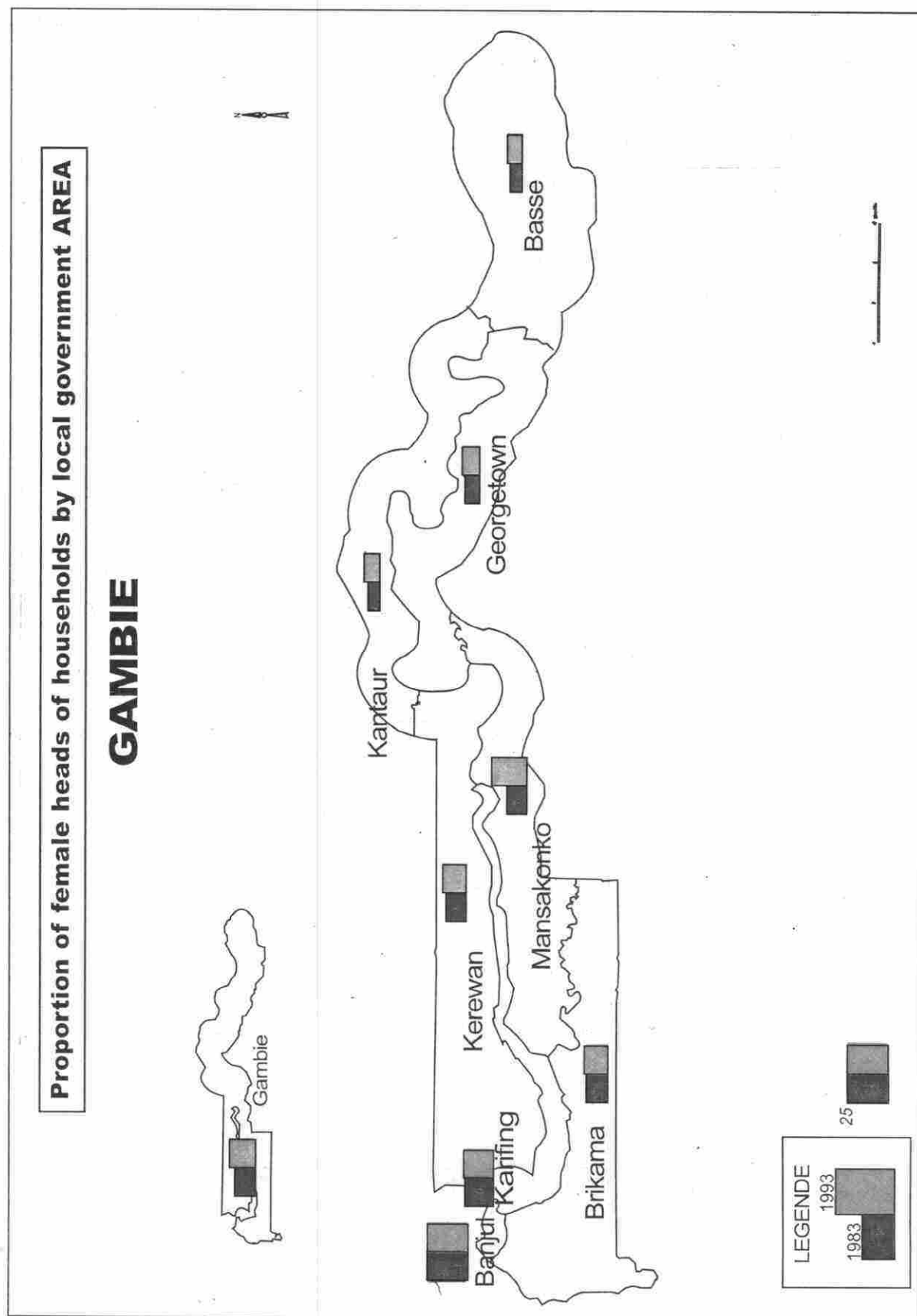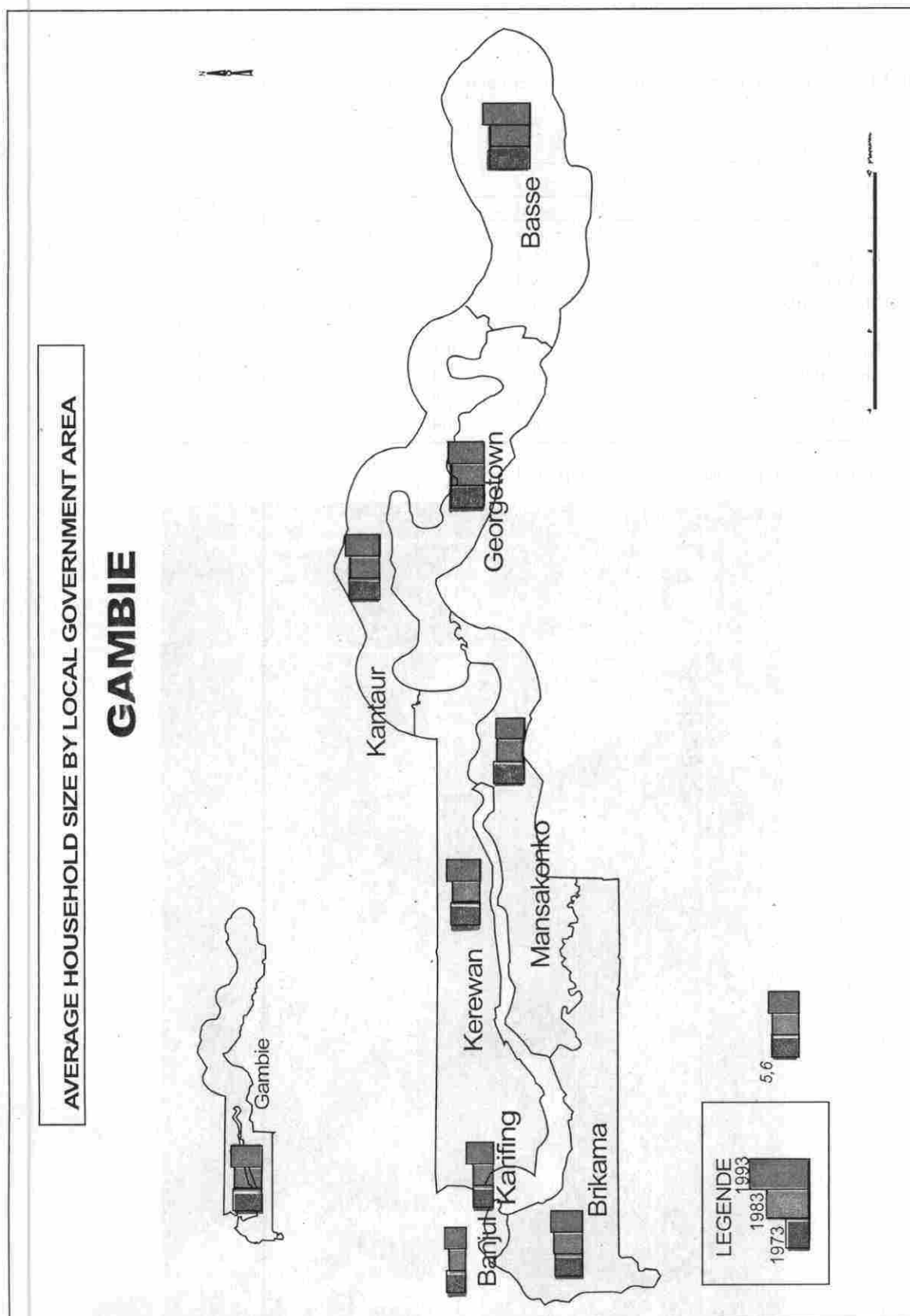
Although, the average household size remained fairly stable since 1973, table 2.16 pictured some variations between Local Government Areas. The average household size was highest in Basse (the extreme east) and lowest in Banjul (the capital city). In general, the further one moves away from Banjul, the larger the household size becomes.

Table 2.16: Average household size by Local Government Area and residence in census years

LGA	1963	1973	1983	1993		
	Total	Total	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Banjul		5.6	5.5	6.0	-	6.0
Kanifing		5.8	6.1	7.3	-	7.3
Brikama		8.0	8.7	8.7	9.3	9.2
Mansakonko		8.7	8.3	5.8	8.5	7.9
Kerewan		8.4	8.7	7.3	10.1	9.4
Kuntaur		8.8	9.5	7.3	10.4	10.0
Jangjangbureh		9.5	9.4	6.7	10.5	10.0
Basse		11.9	12.8	6.3	15.7	13.6
The Gambia		8.3	8.4	7.1	10.5	8.9

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
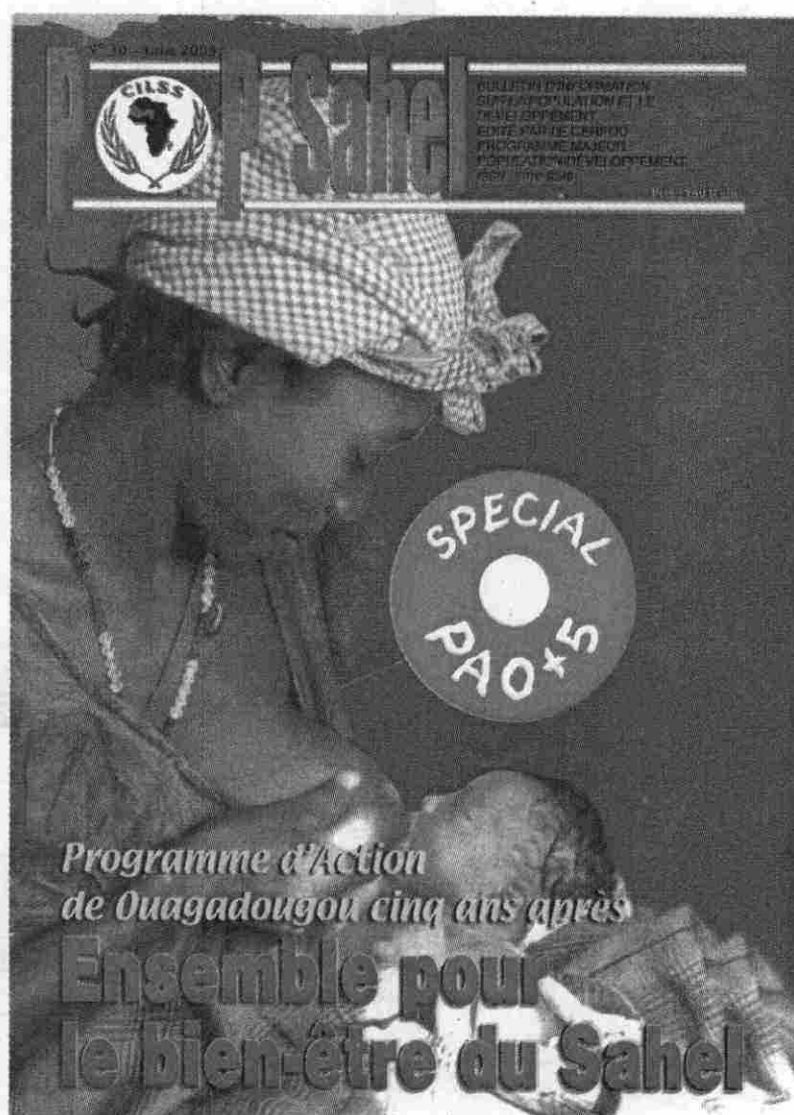
Chapiter III

Population dynamics

3.1 Fertility

Fertility is one of the three components of population change and its study is important in any demographic research. The level of fertility in The Gambia has shown modest decline during the decade 1983-1993 with crude birth rate (CBR) dropping from 50.5 to 46.2 and total fertility rate (TFR) declining from 6.39 to 6.04. The decline, though not impressive could be due to family planning and increase use of modern contraception as well as increase in the median age at first marriage amongst others.

The pattern of fertility is better pictured by looking at fertility across ages. Table 3.1 below compares the 1983 and 1993 age-specific fertility rates (ASFR's).

The table shows that fertility declines over all age groups and that ASFR was highest in age group 25-29 in 1993 as compared to 20-24 in 1983.

Comparison is done of the census fertility schedules of 1983 and 1993 with the 1990 Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinants Survey estimates. One would expect these estimates to lie between the values of the 1983 and 1993 censuses and not lower than the 1993 census results as most age-groups and the TFR show. However, this may be due to the sample size studied.

Table 3.1: Age – specific fertility rates, total fertility rates, crude birth rates, general fertility rates and mean age at childbearing, by Local Government Area, 1983 and 1993 censuses and the 1990 Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinant Survey (GCPFDS).

Age group	1983 Census								
	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Mansa – konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjan - bureh	Basse	The Gambia
15-19	0.1111	0.1649	0.2013	0.2060	0.2377	0.2240	0.2301	0.2301	0.2001
20-24	0.2339	0.2640	0.2855	0.3175	0.3191	0.3012	0.3076	0.3076	0.2930
25-29	0.2605	0.2639	0.2650	0.3134	0.3084	0.2694	0.3007	0.3007	0.2847
30-34	0.2132	0.1961	0.2016	0.2403	0.2546	0.2211	0.2296	0.2296	0.2224
35-39	0.1593	0.1380	0.1485	0.1720	0.1839	0.1632	0.1603	0.1603	0.1606
40-44	0.0816	0.0641	0.0708	0.0792	0.1086	0.0671	0.0800	0.0800	0.0772
45-49	0.0407	0.0251	0.0441	0.0476	0.0401	0.0435	0.0465	0.0465	0.0404
TFR	5.50	5.58	6.08	6.88	7.26	6.45	6.77	6.77	6.39
CBR	43.8	47.0	46.5	51.6	56.2	50.8	55.9	55.9	50.5
GFR	178.1	196.5	203.9	226.1	242.4	216.6	228.4	228.4	214.9
M	29.1	27.7	27.8	27.9	28.0	27.6	27.7	27.7	27.9

Age group	1993 Census								
	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Mansa - konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjan - bureh	Basse	The Gambia
15-19	0.0814	0.1194	0.1651	0.2085	0.1854	0.2165	0.2063	0.2113	0.1673
20-24	0.1973	0.2171	0.2708	0.3113	0.3142	0.3103	0.2964	0.2899	0.2715
25-29	0.2232	0.2303	0.2589	0.3042	0.3158	0.3280	0.2848	0.2899	0.2759
30-34	0.1813	0.1700	0.2074	0.2613	0.2498	0.2618	0.2339	0.2293	0.2208
35-39	0.1443	0.1242	0.1532	0.1885	0.1807	0.1955	0.1744	0.1671	0.1593
40-44	0.0703	0.0591	0.0713	0.0928	0.0754	0.1115	0.0668	0.0770	0.0754
45-49	0.0321	0.0229	0.0489	0.0357	0.0471	0.0436	0.0392	0.0475	0.0382
TFR	4.65	4.72	5.88	7.01	6.84	7.34	6.51	6.56	6.04
CBR	36.2	39.2	43.5	51.2	49.7	55.4	49.3	50.1	46.2
GFR	148.1	162.5	194.0	226.1	223.6	241.6	216.9	219.5	208.5
m	29.4	28.2	28.4	28.2	28.2	28.4	27.9	28.0	28.3

Source: 1983 and 1993 Population and Housing Censuses; Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
   TFR = Total Fertility Rate
   CBR = Crude Birth Rate
   GFR = General fertility rate
   m = Mean Age at Childbearing (in years)

Age group	1990 GCPFDS
	0-4 years before the survey
15-19	0.1670
20-24	0.2703
25-29	0.2378
30-34	0.2282
35-39	0.1304
40-49	0.0777
TFR	5.95

Figure 3.1: Age-Specific Fertility Rates in Census Years
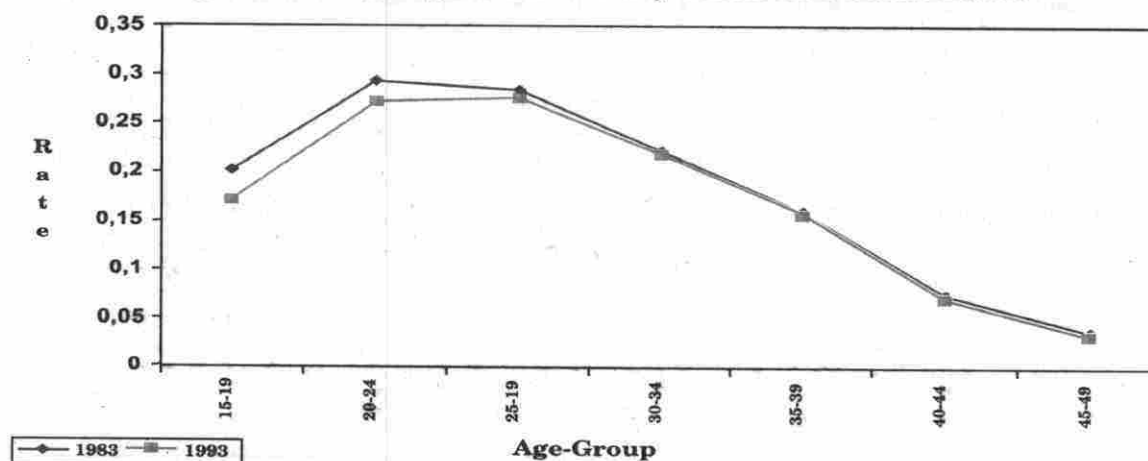
Note: Plot of GCPFDS cannot be drawn because the age grouping differs with that of the censuses, i.e. the last two age groups were merged in the GCPFDS.

Figure 3.2: Total Fertility Rates in Census years Local Government Area

☐1983 ■1993
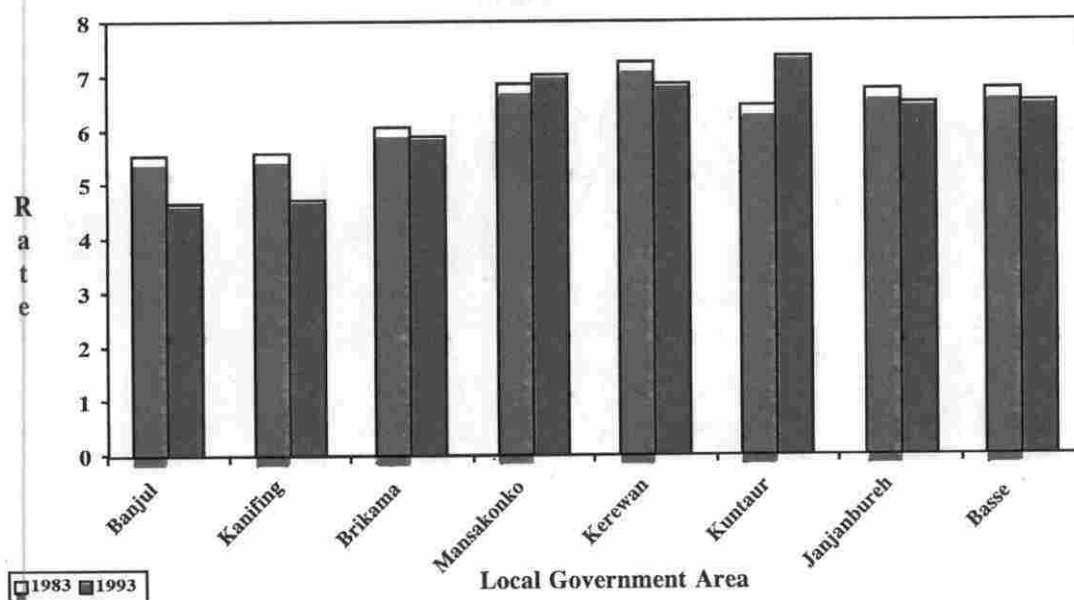
Figure 3.3: Crude Birth Rates in Census years by Local Government Area

☐1983 ■1993

Crude birth rates by local government area

CRUDE BIRTH RATES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIE

Basse

Georgetown

Kantaur

Kerewan

Mansakonko

Banjul Kanifing

Brikama

Gambie

LEGENDE

1993

1983

48,8

CBR

N
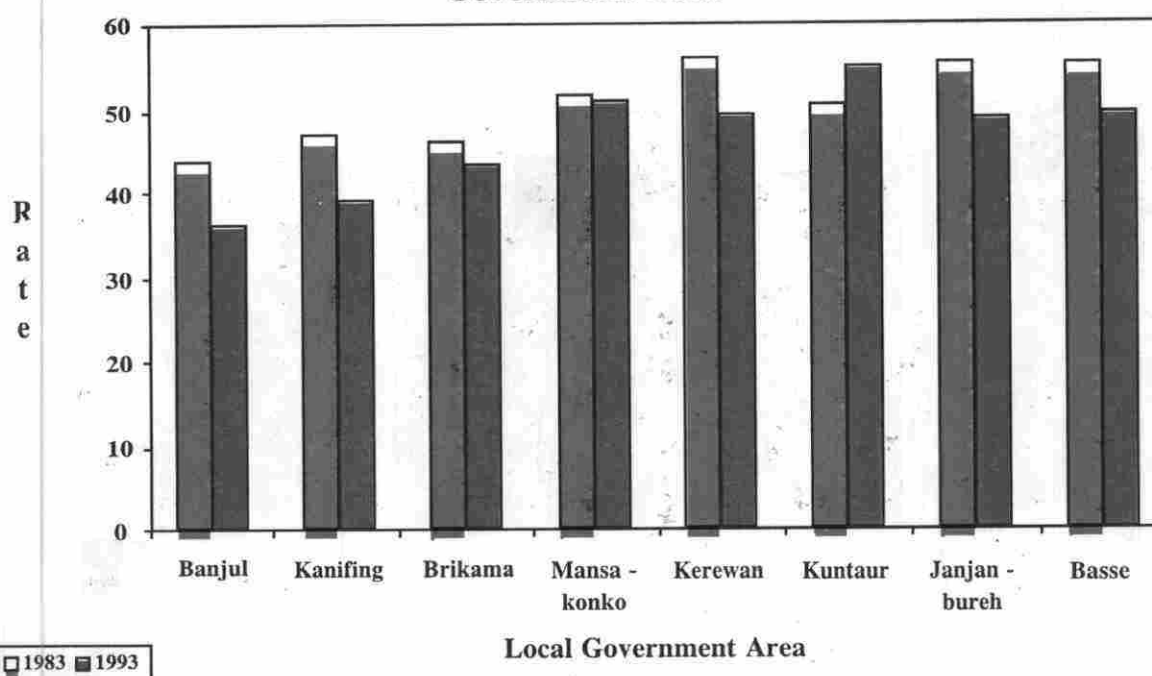
Crude birth rates by local government area
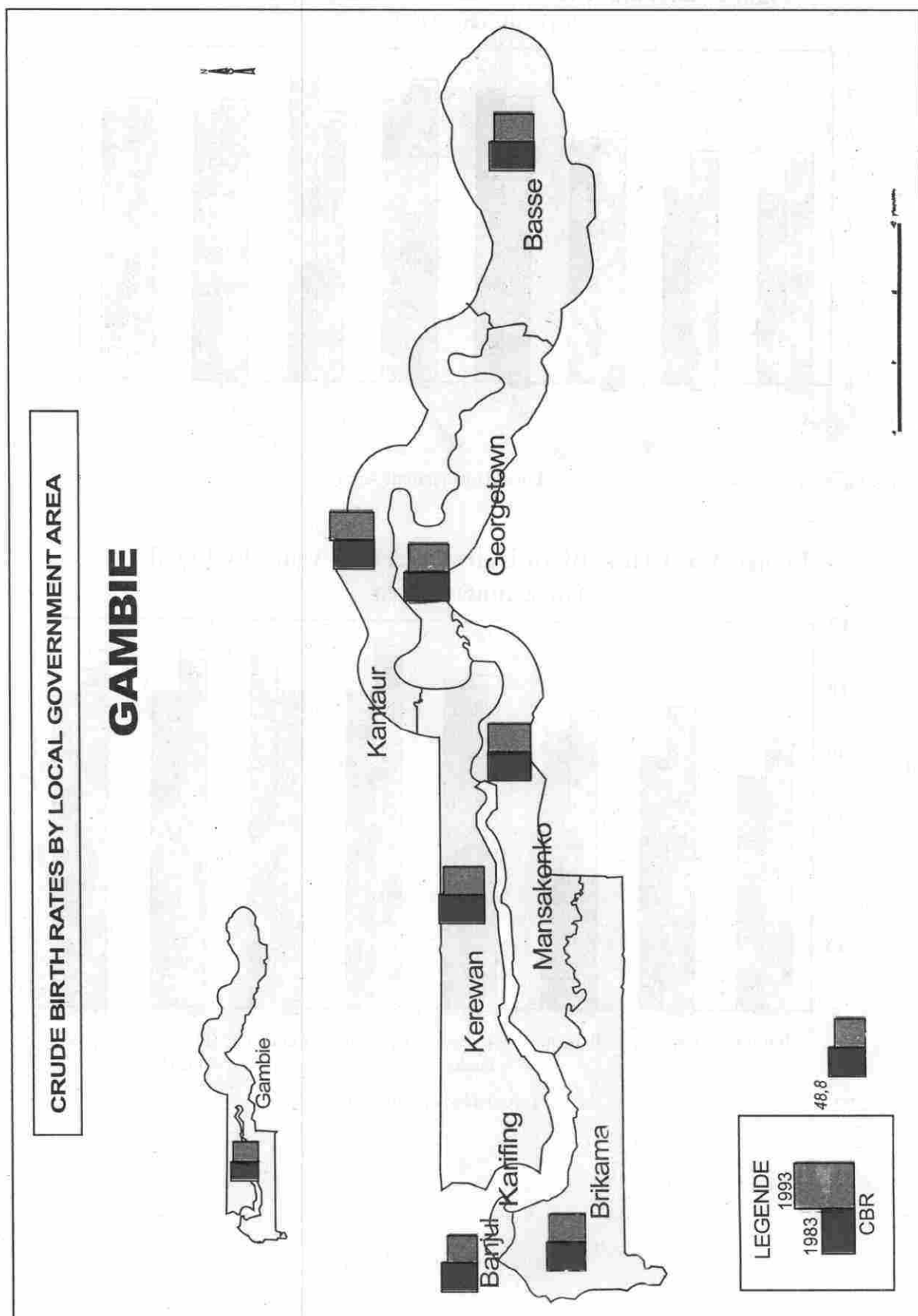
Figure 3.4: General Fertility Rates in Census Years by Local Government Area
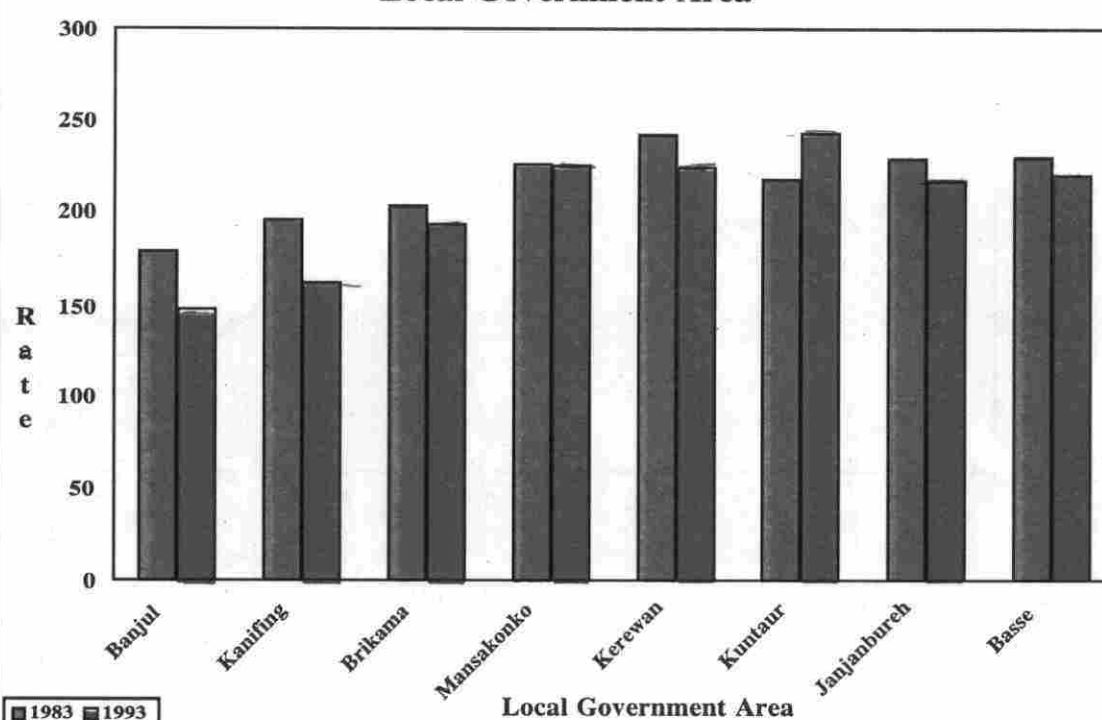
Table 3.2 below shows the urban-rural differentials in fertility across ages in 1993. As expected, fertility rates were higher in rural areas than urban areas for all age groups because of the high literacy rates, better socio-economic conditions and the exposure and access to family planning facilities and services that urban women enjoy more than their rural counterparts.

Table 3.2 : Age – specific fertility rates, total fertility rates, crude birth rates, general fertility rates and mean age at childbearing by residence, 1993.

Age group	Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
15-19	0.1132	0.1789	0.1673
20-24	0.2436	0.3165	0.2715
25-29	0.2817	0.3260	0.2759
30-34	0.2286	0.2717	0.2208
35-39	0.1581	0.2031	0.1593
40-44	0.0800	0.0979	0.0754
45-49	0.0330	0.0560	0.0382
TFR	5.69	7.25	6.04
CBR	44.7	51.1	46.2
GFR	187.6	233.9	208.5
M	28.9	28.7	28.3

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 3.5: Age-Specific Fertility Rates 1993 by Residence
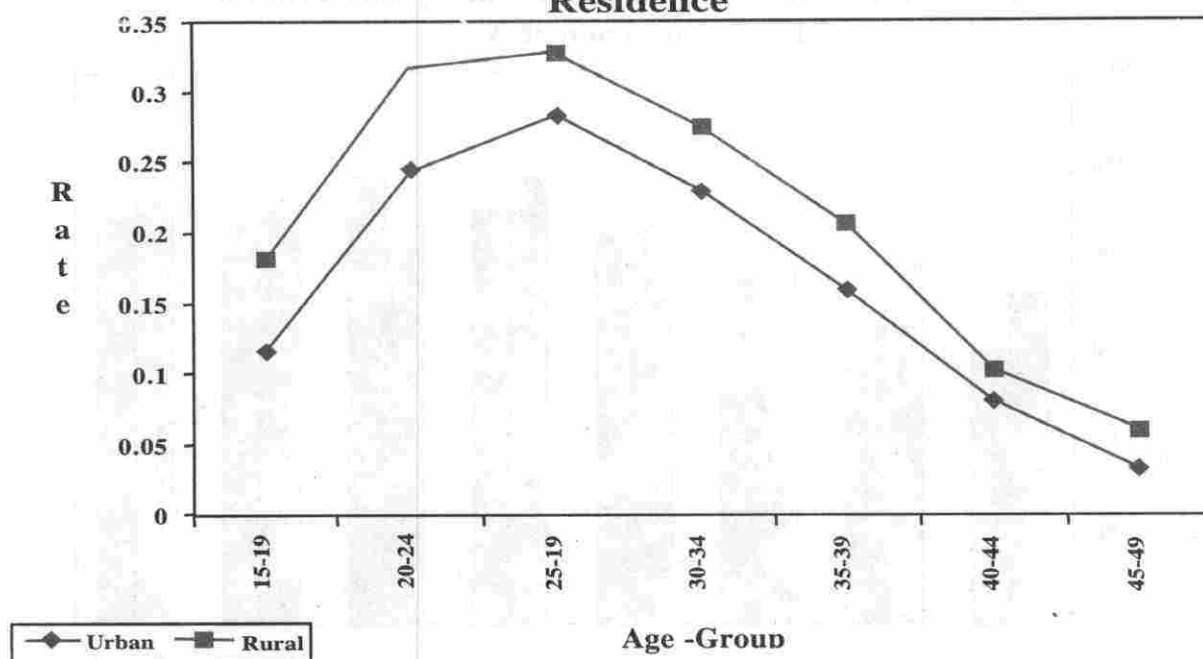
3.2 Proximate determinants of fertility

3.2.1 Contraception

Contraception is one of the proximate determinants of fertility. The availability, accessibility, acceptability and use of modern contraception is expected to reduce the fertility level of a country. Inspite of the early introduction of modern family planning services in the Gambia (1968) than most sahelian countries, fertility levels as measured by total fertility rate is still high (6.04). An explanation to this may be related to the acceptability and use of the various methods of contraception. The interaction of numerous factors may have resulted to low contraceptive prevalence within the population. The persistent poverty within households coupled with the high infant mortality rate generates high preference for children among couples hoping that those who survive to adulthood would protect and support the family. Similarly, high illiteracy within the female population and the misunderstanding of Islamic teachings on family planning may each play a part.

3.2.1.1 *Acceptability of methods (females)*

The Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinant Survey (GCPFDS) of 1990 was the most comprehensive study on contraceptive prevalence in the country. In table 3.3 below, responding women in the reproductive ages of 15-49 years are classified according to contraceptive method(s) ever heard of and main problem perceived in using them.

Total fertility rates by local government area

Total fertility rates by local government area
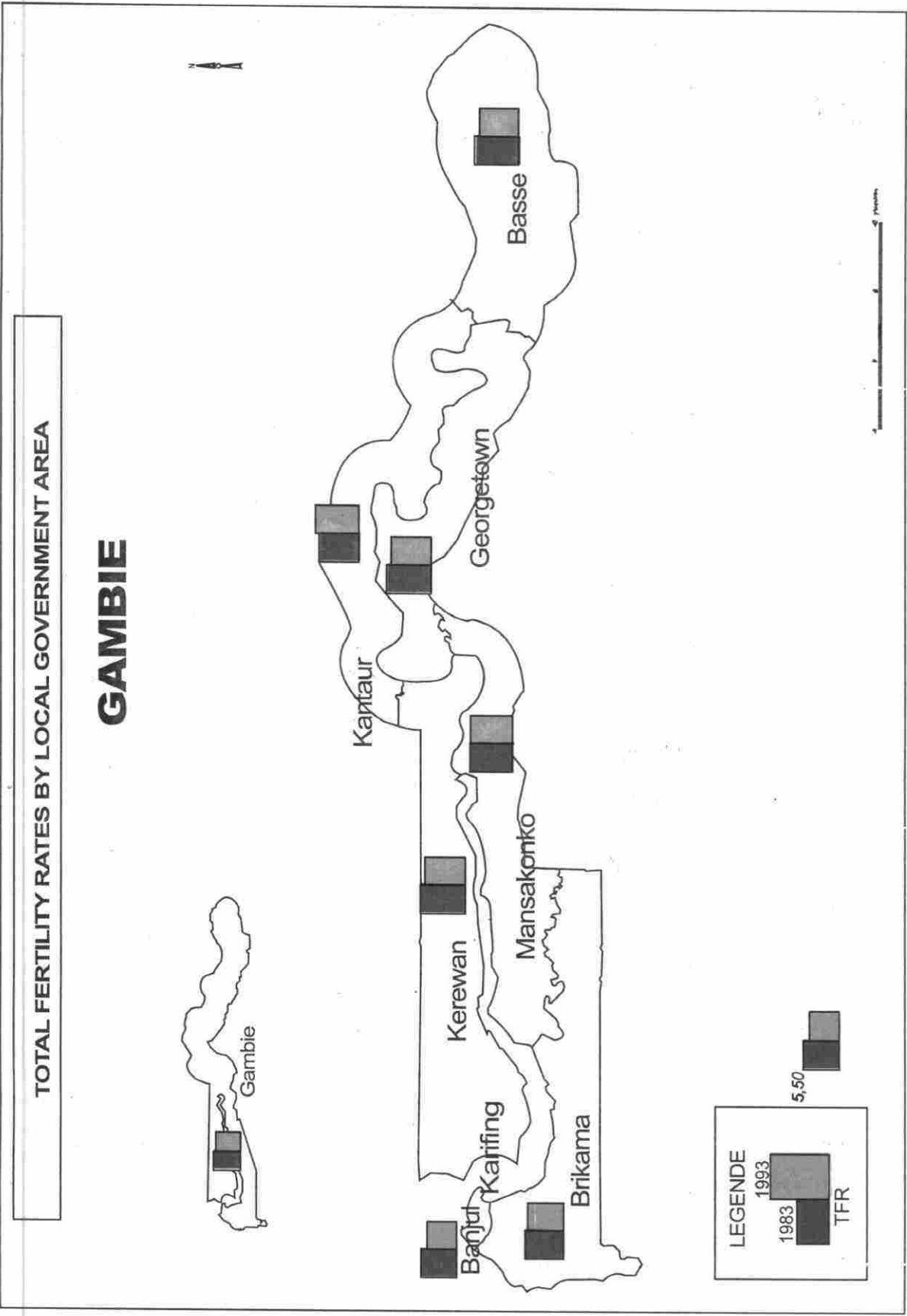
Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of women (15-49) who have ever heard of a contraceptive method by main problem perceived in using the method, according to specific method

Main problem perceived	Contraceptive method									
	Pill	IUD	Injection	Vaginal Method	Condom	Female sterilisation	Male sterilisation	Periodic abstinence	With-drawal	Juju
Not effective	4.9	2.5	2.7	3.6	2.5	1.4	1.1	4.8	14.6	4.8
Partner disapproves	2.5	1.9	2.8	1.4	3.0	1.6	1.1	1.5	0.8	2.2
Inconvinient to use	2.2	2.1	2.3	1.6	3.5	0.3	0.5	2.6	4.9	1.6
Difficult to Get	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.5	1.5
Health concern	4.7	5.4	7.1	3.9	2.8	7.3	9.3	1.6	0.0	0.4
Costs too much	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.1
Religion	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.8	1.1
None	21.3	16.7	16.8	21.2	16.4	18.5	6.6	48.5	28.7	27.4
Don't know	61.0	67.7	65.7	64.9	69.8	69.5	76.0	36.0	42.2	55.2
Not stated	0.6	2.9	1.0	2.1	1.0	0.8	2.7	3.8	6.5	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1665	695	1457	332	1100	829	181	413	236	1350

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

It would be observed from the table that for each of the modern methods of contraception, lack of knowledge on the method (don't know) was perceived by most (above 60.0% in each case) as the main problem in using it. This calls for intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes to reverse the situation. Of the remaining, majority did not perceive any problem (none) in using the methods (except male sterilisation) which could be interpreted as having accepted the methods.

3.2.1.2 Ever use of contraception females)

According to the Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinants Survey (1990), 22.0 percent of all women in the reproductive ages of 15-49 have ever used a contraceptive method (modern or traditional). The study further reveals that of all women in this age bracket, 13.2 percent have ever used a modern method while 11.5 percent have ever used a traditional method of contraception. The most widely used modern method among all women was the pill (9.3%), followed by injection (3.7%). The IUD and condom were used by 1.9 and 1.6 percent of all women respectively while sterilisation (female or male) was rare particularly among younger ages. Among the traditional methods, periodic abstinence was the most widely used (6.4%) among gambian women, followed by juju (3.7%).

Table 3.5: Percentage distribution of married women (15-49) who have ever used a contraceptive method by age and specific method

Age	Modern methods							Any modern method	Traditional methods				Any traditional	Any method
	Pills	IUD	Injection	Vaginal Method	Condoms	Female sterilization	Male sterilization		Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Juju	Others		
~19	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.9	0.2	1.1	0.3	3.5	5.9
~24	8.7	1.6	0.9	1.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	12.4	8.4	0.6	3.9	2.4	13.5	23.3
~29	13.7	2.3	3.3	0.2	2.1	0.2	0.3	16.7	6.8	1.0	4.8	2.5	13.0	26.6
~34	10.7	1.8	3.9	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.3	14.5	7.3	0.8	4.9	2.0	14.5	25.9
~39	14.8	3.1	12.2	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.0	23.6	7.6	0.0	4.3	2.5	12.9	31.7
~49	10.0	4.0	7.6	0.9	1.0	2.7	0.0	16.4	8.5	0.8	4.1	3.1	14.9	27.6
xtal	9.3	1.9	3.7	0.5	1.6	0.4	0.1	13.2	6.4	0.6	3.7	2.0	11.5	22.0

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

Table 3.5 below shows the distribution of married women who have ever used a contraceptive method according to specific method. Close scrutiny of the table shows that the pattern and levels of contraceptive use among married women are similar to that of all women.

There were however, variations in ever use of contraception between urban and rural areas. For example, while more than 43 percent of married women in urban areas reported to have ever used a contraception method (modern or traditional), the corresponding percentage in rural areas was about 20. Furthermore, modern contraception attracts about 29 percent of urban married women while in the rural areas, only about 11 percent of married women have ever made use of these facilities. Traditional contraception on the other hand has been used by 18 percent of urban married women and 12 percent of rural married women.

Figure 3.6:Percentage Distribution of all Women (15-49) who have ever used a contraceptive method by Age-Group and Method

■Any modern method ■Any traditional □Any method   Age-Group
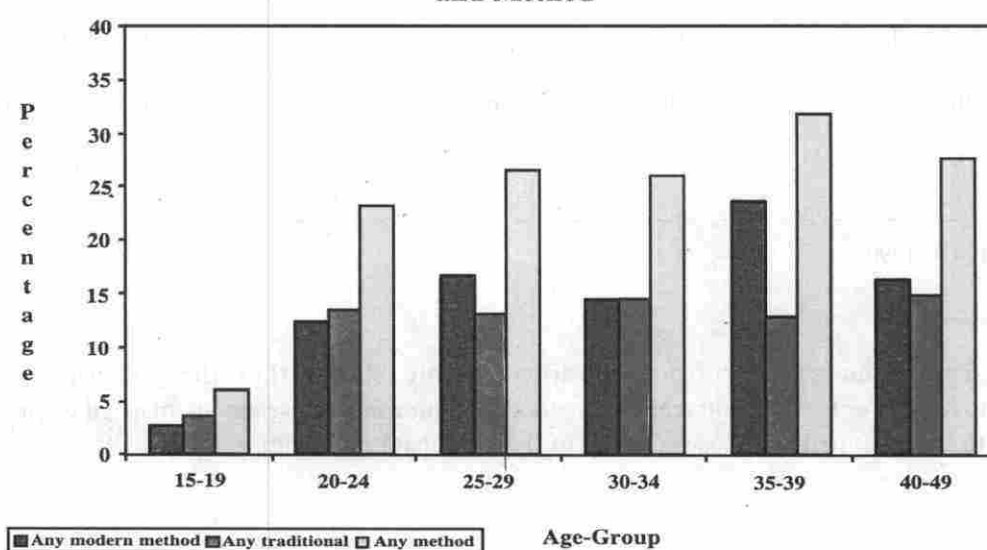
Figure 3.7: Percentage Distribution of Married Women (15-49) who ever used a contraceptive method by Age-Group and Method

■Any modern method ■Any traditional □Any method   Age-Group
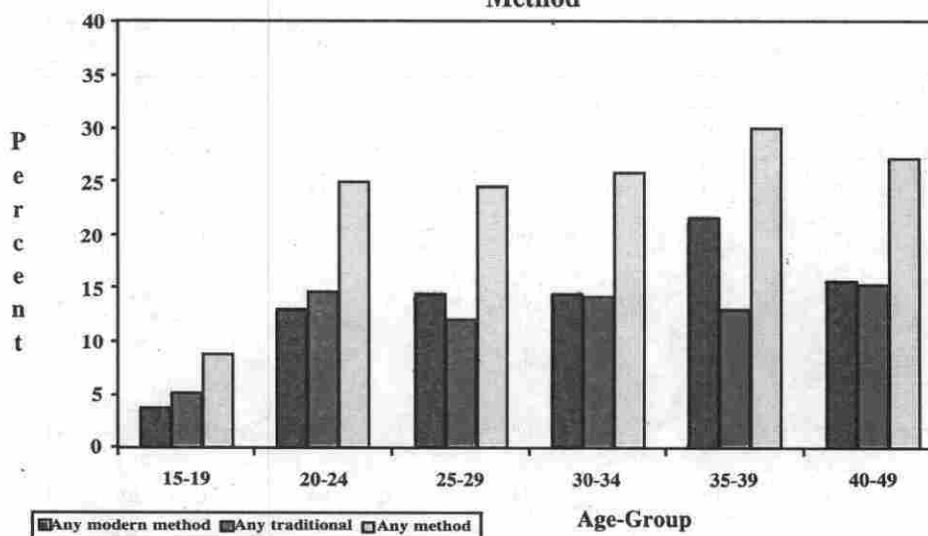
Table 3.6: Summary of ever use of contraception (%)

Category of women	Contraceptive method		
	Any method	Any modern method	Any traditional method
All women	22.0	13.2	11.5
All married women	24.3	14.1	12.8
Married women (urban)	43.3	28.8	17.9
Married women (rural)	19.7	10.6	11.6

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

3.2.1.3 Current use of contraception among women

Information on current use of contraception is useful in determining contraceptive prevalence. As the rate of current contraception may impact on future fertility levels, data and current use of contraception may be used to project potential fertility reduction attributable to family planning interventions.

The findings of the 1990 Gambian Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinant Survey (GCPFDS) on current use of contraception among women is presented in table 3.7 to 3.9 below. Table 3.7 shows that of all women aged 15-49 studied, about 11 percent currently used any method of contraception (modern or traditional) at the time of the study i.e. 6.4 percent used any modern method while 4.5 percent used any traditional method. The trend in current use among all women rises with age from 3.2 percent at age group 15-19 to 14.5 percent at age group 30-34 and then declines reaching 9.5 percent at age group 40-49. Of the modern methods, the pill was the current most widely used while periodic abstinence was the current most widely used traditional method.

Table 3.7: Percentage distribution of all women (15-49) who were in current use of contraceptive method by age and specific method

Age	Modern methods						Any modern method	Traditional methods			Any traditional	Any method
	Pills	IUD	Inject.	Vaginal method	Condoms	Female sterilization		Periodic abstinence	Juju	Others		
15-19	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.3	1.4	0.4	0.3	2.1	3.2
20-24	3.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.0	6.3	4.8	0.7	1.3	6.9	13.0
25-29	5.6	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.3	0.2	8.1	3.0	1.6	1.0	5.6	13.7
30-34	4.2	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	7.6	3.5	1.5	1.9	6.9	14.5
35-39	3.4	1.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.5	10.4	2.1	0.4	0.7	3.2	13.5
40-49	0.8	1.7	1.8	0.0	1.0	2.7	3.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.6	9.5
Total	3.1	0.9	1.4	0.1	0.5	0.4	6.4	2.7	0.9	0.9	4.5	10.9

Source: GCPFDS. 1990

Figure 3.8: Percentage Distribution of all Women (15-49), who were in current use of Contraceptive Method by Age Group and Specific Method

Legend: ■ All Modern Methods ▨ All Traditional Methods ☐ All Methods
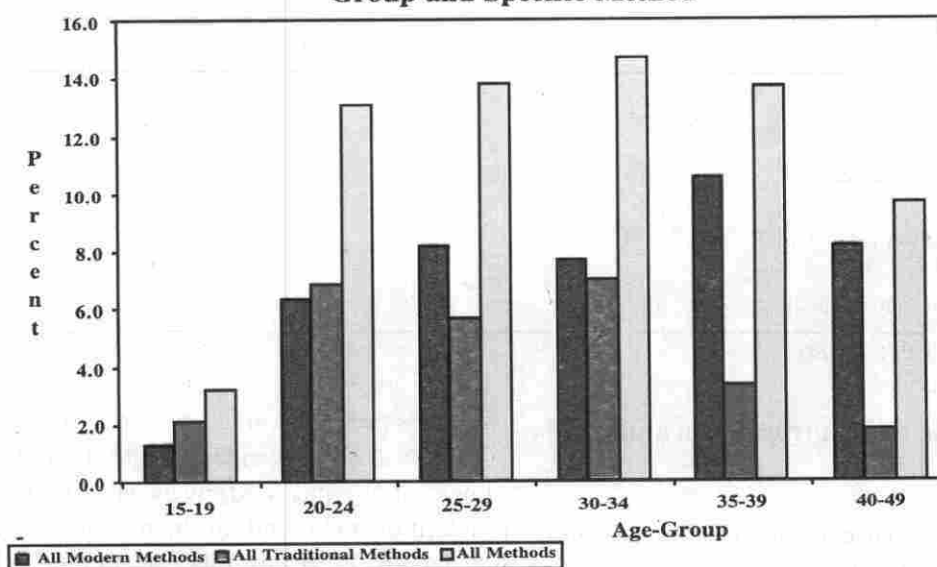
Among all women aged 15-49, table 3.8 shows that about 12 percent were currently using any contraceptive method i.e. any modern methods (6.7%) and any traditional methods (5.1%). The pattern of current contraception among all married women was similar to that of all women.

Table 3.8: Percentage distribution of all married women (15-49) who were in current use of contraceptive method by age and specific method

Age	Modern methods						Any modern method	Traditional methods			Any traditional	Any method
	Pills	IUD	Injection	Vaginal Method	Condoms	Female sterilization		Periodic abstinence	Juju	Others		
15-19	0.9	0.0	0.5	-	0.0	0.0	1.4	2.3	0.0	0.6	2.9	4.3
20-24	3.2	0.9	0.6	-	0.6	0.0	5.3	5.7	0.7	1.2	7.6	12.8
25-29	4.9	0.7	1.2	-	0.3	0.2	7.3	3.0	1.7	1.1	5.8	13.2
30-34	4.2	1.3	1.4	-	0.5	0.0	7.4	3.4	1.3	2.0	6.7	14.1
35-39	3.2	0.9	5.1	-	0.0	0.5	9.7	2.2	0.4	0.8	3.4	13.2
40-49	0.8	1.8	1.9	-	1.1	2.3	7.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.6	9.6
Total	3.3	0.9	1.7	-	0.4	0.4	6.7	3.1	0.9	1.1	5.1	11.8

Source: GCPFDS ,1990.

**Figure 3.9:Percentage Distribution of all Married Women (15-49),
who were in current use of a contraceptive Method by Age-Group
and Specific Method**

All Modern Methods ▦**All Traditional Methods** ☐**All Methods**
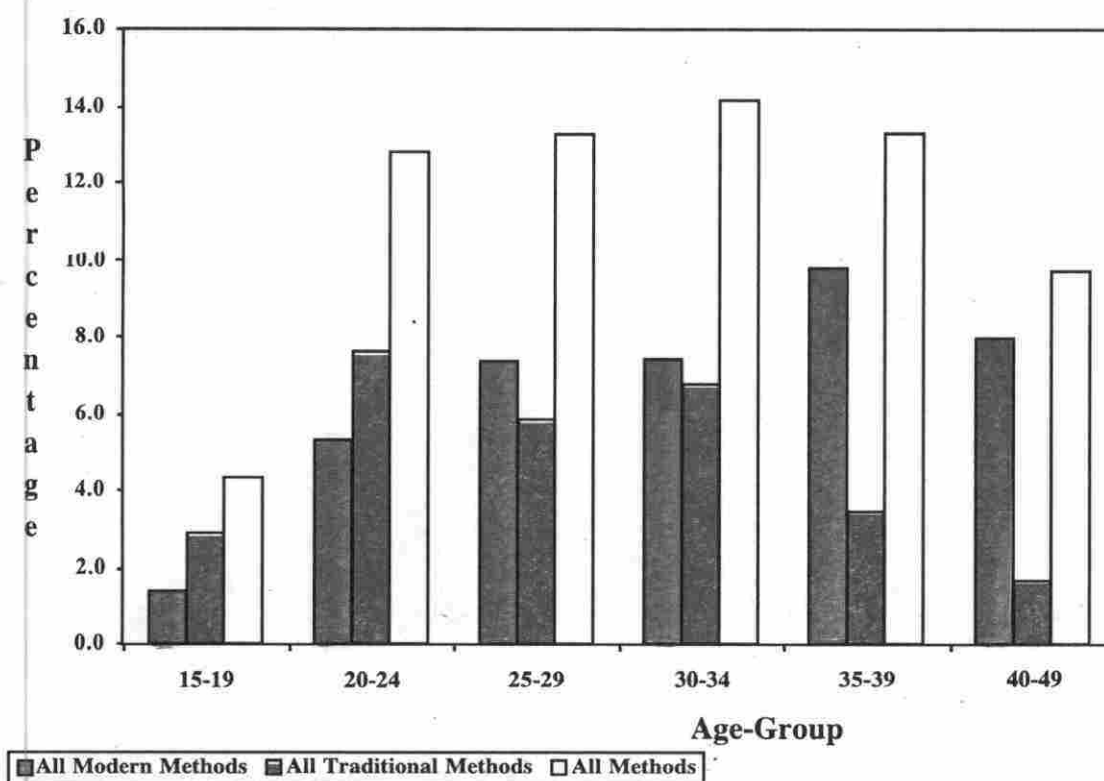
Further analysis revealed the urban-rural differentials in current use of contraceptives among married women aged 15-49. While 22.6 percent of urban married women currently contracept, only 8.5 percent of their rural counterparts did the same. In fact table 3.9 shows that while use of modern methods were more prevalent among married women in urban areas, the tendency in the rural areas was that of equal prevalence in the use of both modern and traditional methods among married women.

Table: 3.9: Urban/rural differentials in current use of contraceptives among married women (15-49) %

Residence	Contraceptive method		Any method
	Modern	Traditional	
Urban	16.5	8.7	26.2
Rural	4.3	4.3	8.4

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2000) has studied contraceptive prevalence among married or in union women aged 15-49. The study revealed contraceptive prevalence for all methods of 9.0 per cent, which was a decline when compared to the 1990 GCPFDS. However, if attention is focused on modern methods only, the study found a prevalence rate of 8.7 per cent; an increase over the 6.4 per cent revealed in the 1990 GCPFDS. In other words, the MICS has shown a decline in overall contraception among married women but suggests an increase in modern contraception as a result of slight successes in family planning programmes since 1990. Furthermore, the MICS study has revealed marked variations between urban and rural areas. The high prevalence among urban married women (12%) indicates that availability of an access to contraceptives favours them more than their rural counterparts.

Table 310: Percentage distribution of married or in union women aged 15-49 who are using (or whose partner is using) a contraceptive method by Local Government Area and residence

Local Government Area/residence	Any modern method	Any traditional method	Any method
Banjul	22.5	0.9	23.5
Kanifing	10.1	0.0	10.1
Brikama	8.4	0.7	9.0
Mansakonko	6.2	0.6	6.9
Kerewan	9.1	0.0	9.1
Kuntaur	10.3	0.0	10.3
Janjanbureh	6.0	0.0	6.0
Basse	7.1	0.5	7.0
Urban	12.1	0.1	2.2
Rural	6.6	0.5	7.0
The Gambia	8.7	0.3	9.0

Source : MICS, 2000

3.2.1.4 Male contraception

Family planning in general and contraception in particular requires the collaboration of both sexes.

This section aims at highlighting the prevalence of contraception among gambian men as contraception cannot be effective and extensive if one sex is marginalised.

Table 3.11: Knowledge of contraception among males (%)

Characteristic	At least one method (modern or traditional)	At least one modern method	At least one traditional method
Married	66.0	52.6	50.3
Not married	73.6	70.9	40.4
Total	68.3	58.1	47.3
Urban	82.8	75.4	50.5
Rural	62.5	51.2	46.0

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

Table 3.11 above shows that 68.3 percent of men surveyed knew at least one contraception method, (modern or traditional), though there were urban-rural variations i.e urban (82.8%) and rural (62.5%). While more than three-quarter of urban men knew at least one modern contraception method, a little over half of the rural men studied reported to have known the same. Such a differential is expected due to the high exposure of urban dwellers to modern contraception than their rural counterparts. On the contrary the table shows that there was not much variation about knowledge of traditional contraception among urban and rural men.

Table 3.12: Ever use of contraception among males (%)

Characteristic	At least one method (modern or traditional)	At least one modern method	At least one traditional method
Married	16.6	12.0	6.3
Not married	27.6	26.9	2.7
Total	19.9	16.5	5.3
Urban	32.0	29.1	5.3
Rural	15.1	11.5	5.2

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

Figure 3.10: Ever use of at least one Contraceptive method among males (%) by marital status
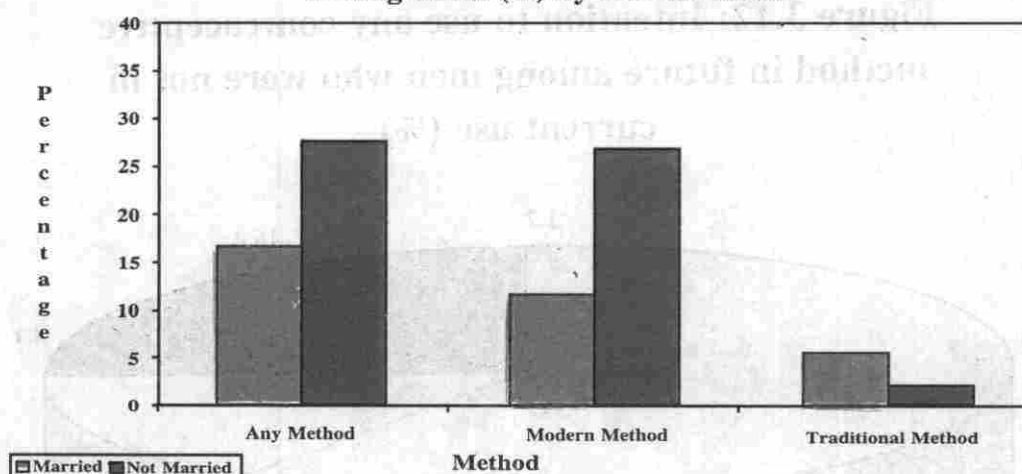
Figure 3.11: Ever use of at least one Contraceptive method among males (%) by Residence
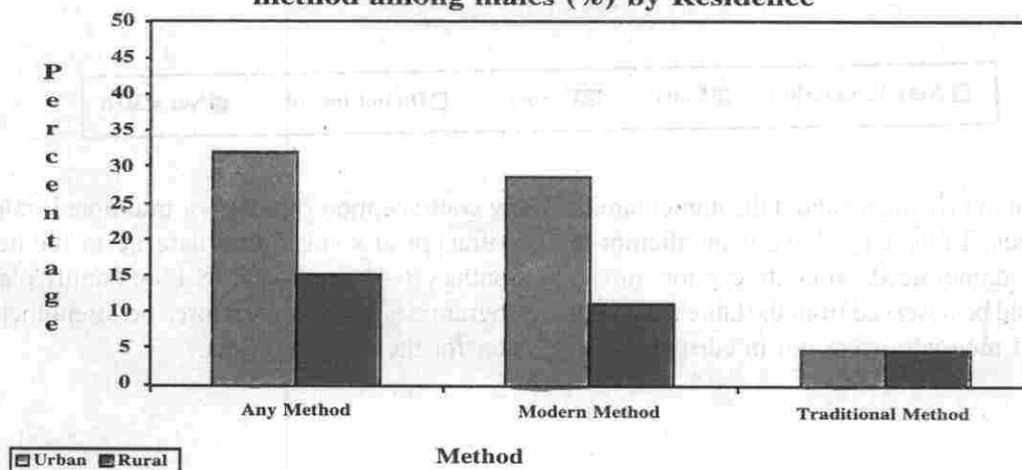
Ever use of contraception as pictured in the table above shows that about 20 percent of men have ever used at least one contraception method (modern or traditional). However, the rate of contraception was higher among the not married and urban males, which conforms to the expectations. With 16.5 percent of males reported to have ever used at least one modern method as against 5.3 percent for traditional contraception, one could safely conclude that in general, men accept modern contraceptives over traditional ones. Ever use of modern contraception was high among the not married and urban males as expected whereas married men dominate in the use of traditional contraception.

Table 3.13: Intention to use any contraception method in future among men who were not in current use (%)

Intend to use		Unsure about using	Do not intend to use	Not stated
In the next 12 months	Later			
16.4	8.1	15.1	59.2	1.2

Source: GCPFDS, 1990

Figure 3.12: Intention to use any contraceptive method in future among men who were not in current use (%)
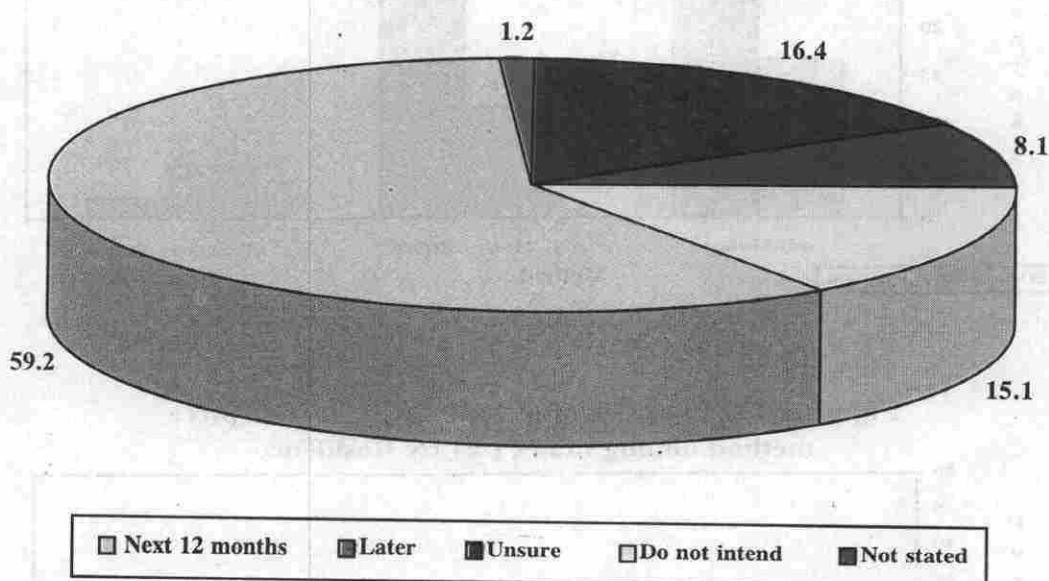
It is important to investigate about the unmet family planning needs. Table 3.13 above is an attempt to highlight the unmet needs in contraception among males. It would be observed from the table that about 25 percent of men who were not in current use of any contraception (modern or traditional) intend to contracept at some future date i.e in the next 12 months (16.4%) and later (8.1%). Family planning programmes should therefore, be strengthened to cater for these future needs.

3.2.2 Nuptiality

The study of nuptiality is important in that the prevalence of marriage in a population impacts on the fertility level. In The Gambia, there is universal and early marriage particularly among women. This means that in general, women live in marriages and remarriages for most of their reproductive lives.

Table 3.14: Population aged 10 years and over by marital status and sex (%), 1983 and 1993

Marital status	1983		1993	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Married	45.5	67.7	40.9	61.1
Never married	49.6	24.5	56.6	32.6
Divorced	1.5	1.7	1.0	1.5
Separated	0.8	1.2	0.3	0.6
Widowed	0.6	3.7	0.4	3.5
Not stated	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Figures for 1963 and 1973 are not available.

Table 3.14 above shows that the proportion married within the population has declined over the decades for both males and females. On the contrary, the proportion never married has increased for both sexes. This suggests an increase in the mean age of entry into marriage during the intercensal decade.

Table 3.15: Female population aged 10 years and over by 5 year age groups and marital status (%), 1983 and 1993

Age groups	1983					
	Married	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Not stated
10-14	5.4	93.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.8
15-19	52.6	44.4	0.8	0.9	0.2	1.1
20-24	81.1	14.8	1.9	1.0	0.4	0.8
25-29	91.1	5.1	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.5
30-34	93.4	2.4	2.0	0.7	1.0	0.4
35-44	92.3	1.7	2.2	1.1	2.3	0.4
45-54	86.2	1.3	2.5	1.7	7.6	0.6
55-64	72.5	1.7	3.2	3.4	17.9	1.3
65+	53.7	2.4	3.4	4.7	33.8	1.9
N.S	38.2	23.0	0.8	0.6	2.2	35.2
Total	67.7	24.5	1.7	1.2	3.7	1.2
	1993					
10-14	3.4	95.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8
15-19	37.4	60.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.0
20-24	71.8	25.0	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.7
25-29	87.4	9.0	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.5
30-34	91.3	4.4	2.3	0.6	1.0	0.4
35-39	92.2	2.7	2.5	0.7	1.6	0.4
40-44	90.9	2.3	2.2	0.8	3.4	0.4
45-49	88.0	2.3	2.3	0.8	6.1	0.4
50-54	83.2	2.4	2.4	1.3	10.1	0.6
55-59	77.5	2.7	2.6	1.3	15.3	0.6
60-64	70.6	3.2	1.8	1.5	21.6	0.9
65+	56.2	4.2	2.2	2.0	34.2	1.2
N.S	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	61.1	32.6	1.5	0.6	3.5	0.7

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
Note: 1: N.S. means age not stated
2: Figures for 1963 and 1973 are not available

Figure 3.13: Never married Female Population aged 10 years and over
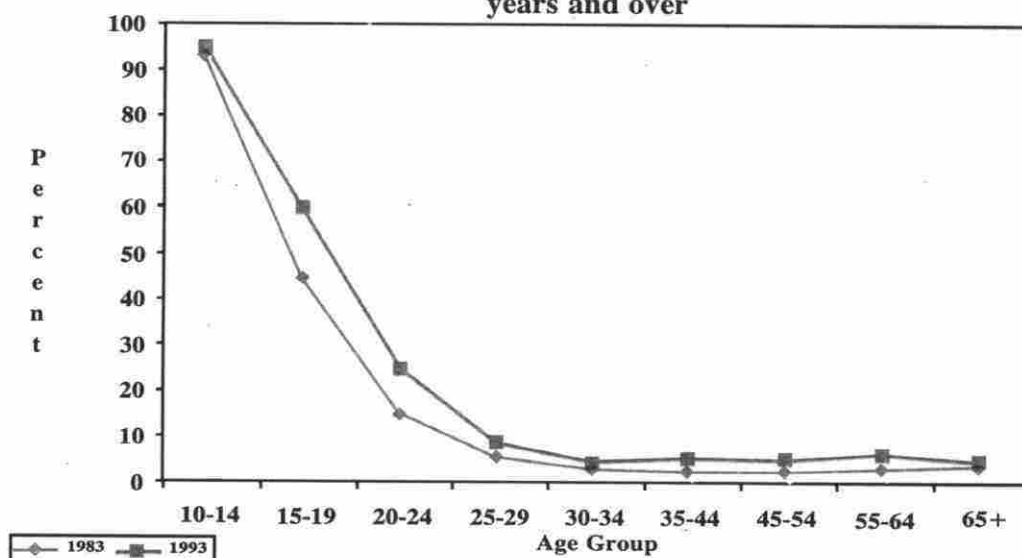
Table 3.16: Male population aged 10 years and over by 5 years age groups and marital status (%), 1983 and 1993

Age groups	1983					
	Married	Never married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Not stated
10-14	0.6	99.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
15-19	2.6	95.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2
20-24	14.6	82.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	2.1
25-29	44.2	51.4	1.3	1.0	0.3	1.9
30-34	71.2	23.0	2.5	1.4	0.4	1.4
35-44	83.5	10.6	2.8	1.5	0.6	1.0
45-54	89.5	4.7	2.8	1.5	0.8	0.6
55-64	89.9	3.7	3.0	1.3	1.5	0.5
65+	88.6	2.8	3.1	1.6	3.2	0.6
N.S	27.8	24.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	46.4
Total	45.5	49.6	1.5	0.8	0.6	2.0
	1993					
10-14	0.4	98.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8
15-19	1.8	96.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2
20-24	10.7	87.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.5
25-29	36.6	60.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.3
30-34	66.8	29.8	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.9
35-39	81.4	15.0	2.0	0.5	0.3	0.6
40-44	86.8	9.5	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.5
45-49	89.9	6.5	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
50-54	90.3	5.4	2.3	0.5	0.9	0.6
55-59	91.4	4.5	2.3	0.5	0.9	0.4
60-64	90.7	5.1	2.2	0.5	1.2	0.3
65+	89.1	4.4	2.3	0.7	2.9	0.5
N.S	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	40.9	56.5	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.9

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
Note: 1: N.S. means age not stated
             2: Figures for 1963 and 1973 are not available

Figure 3.14: Never married Male Population aged 10 years and over
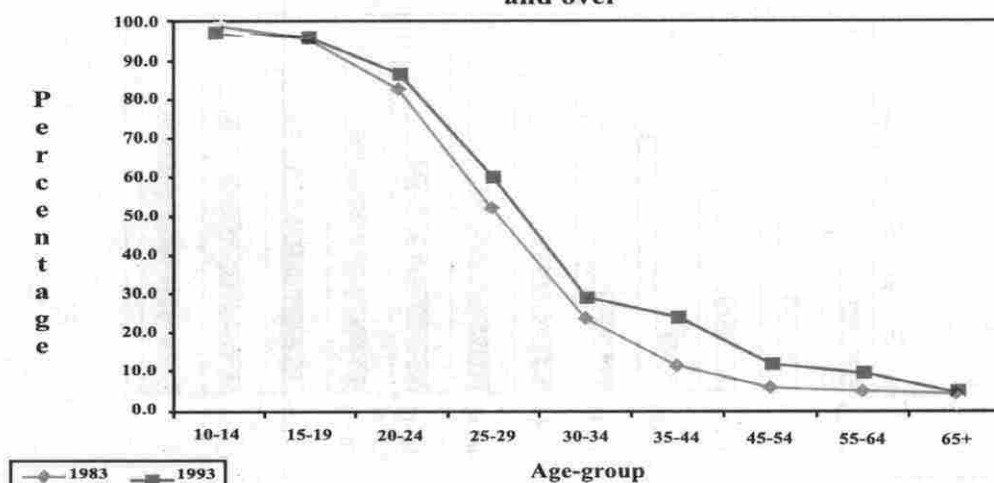
It would be observed from tables 3.15 and 3.16 that the proportion married in the population is an increasing function of age whereas the proportion never married is a decreasing function of age for both males and females. Another salient observation made from the tables is the overall decline in the proportion widowed during the intercensal decade for both males and females. These conform to the intercensal increases in male and female life expectancies.

Table 3.17: Population in polygamous marriage by 5 years age groups and sex (%), 1993

Age groups	Male	Female
10-14	15.6	29.1
15-19	16.4	31.3
20-24	10.9	38.0
25-29	10.0	47.3
30-34	17.7	55.8
35-39	27.4	58.9
40-44	37.7	61.5
45-49	42.4	61.2
50-54	48.2	62.0
55-59	51.6	60.3
60-64	52.8	58.1
65+	53.6	55.5
Total	34.3	50.2

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
Note: Data for 1963, 1973 and 1983 are not available

Figure 3.15: Population in Polygamous Marriage by 5 year Age-Group and Sex (%) 1993
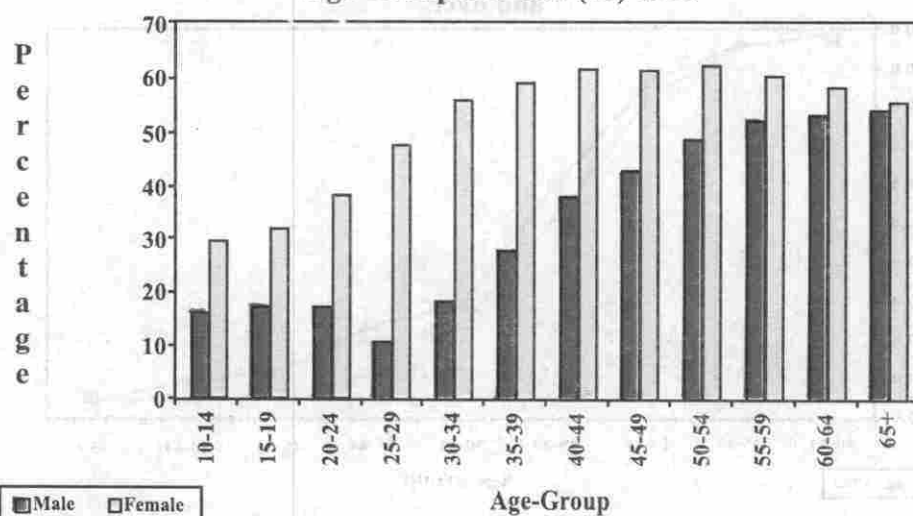
Table 3.17 shows that 34.3 percent of married men were in polygamous union as compared to 50.2 percent for married women in 1993. It would be observed from the table that the proportion in polygamous union increases with the age of the population.

Table 3.18 below shows that there are regional variations in the extent of polygamy. In general however, the prevalence of polygamous union increases as one moves eastwards from Banjul.

Table 3.18: Population aged 10 years and over in polygamous marriage by Local Government Area, 1993

Local Government Area/Residence	Male	Female
Banjul	21.8	31.4
Kanifing	24.0	36.5
Brikama	33.5	49.9
Mansakonko	42.4	59.1
Kerewan	37.5	53.4
Kuntaur	38.4	53.5
Janjanbureh	37.5	52.0
Basse	45.0	59.8
The Gambia	34.3	50.2

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

3.3 Mortality

Analysis of the 1993 census has shown that mortality in The Gambia has declined dramatically since 1983. Life expectancy at birth has increased from 42.8 in 1993 to 59.3 in 1993 for the entire population while for females, it rose from 44.2 to 60.0 over the same period. This increase in life expectancy could be due to improvements in the health and nutrition status of the population as evidenced by declines recorded in infant mortality rate (IMR) from 167 to 84 per 1000 live births over the intercensal period. By 1993, the incidence of maternal mortality was found to be 1,050 per 100,000 live births while crude death rate (CDR) stood at 11.27 per 1000.

Table 3.19: Life expectancy at birth estimated from different censuses for males, females and both sexes

Sex	Life expectancy at birth		
	1973	1983	1993
Males	32.2	41.3	58.3
Females	34.3	44.2	60.0
Both sexes	33.2	42.8	59.3

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 3.16: Life Expectancy at Birth in Census Years

Figure 3.16: Life Expectancy at Birth in Census Years
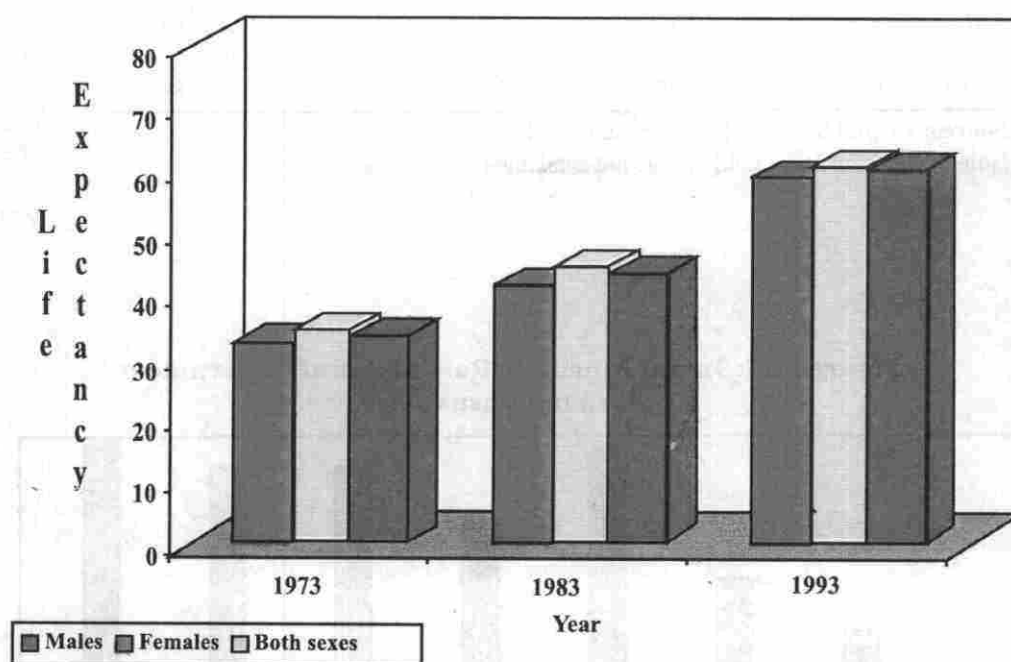
Table 3.20: Life expectancy at birth (e₀) and infant mortality rate (IMR) by Local Government Area 1983 and 1993

LGA	1983		1993	
	e_o	IMR	e_o	IMR
Banjul	54.8	95	-	59
Kanifing	49.2	125	-	64
Brikama	46.0	145	-	84
Mansakonko	38.5	194	-	103
Kerewan	42.2	168	-	85
Kuntaur	39.3	188	-	85
Janjanbureh	40.3	188	-	101
Basse	37.7	199	-	97
The Gambia	42.8	167	59.3	84

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Data for 1963 and 1973 are not available

Figure 3.17: Infant Mortality Rate by Local Government Area in Census yeras

Infant mortality rate by local government area

INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

GAMBIE

Gambie

Banjul

Kanifing

Brikama

Kerewan

Mansakonko

Kantaur

Georgetown

Basse

LEGENDE
1983
1993
95
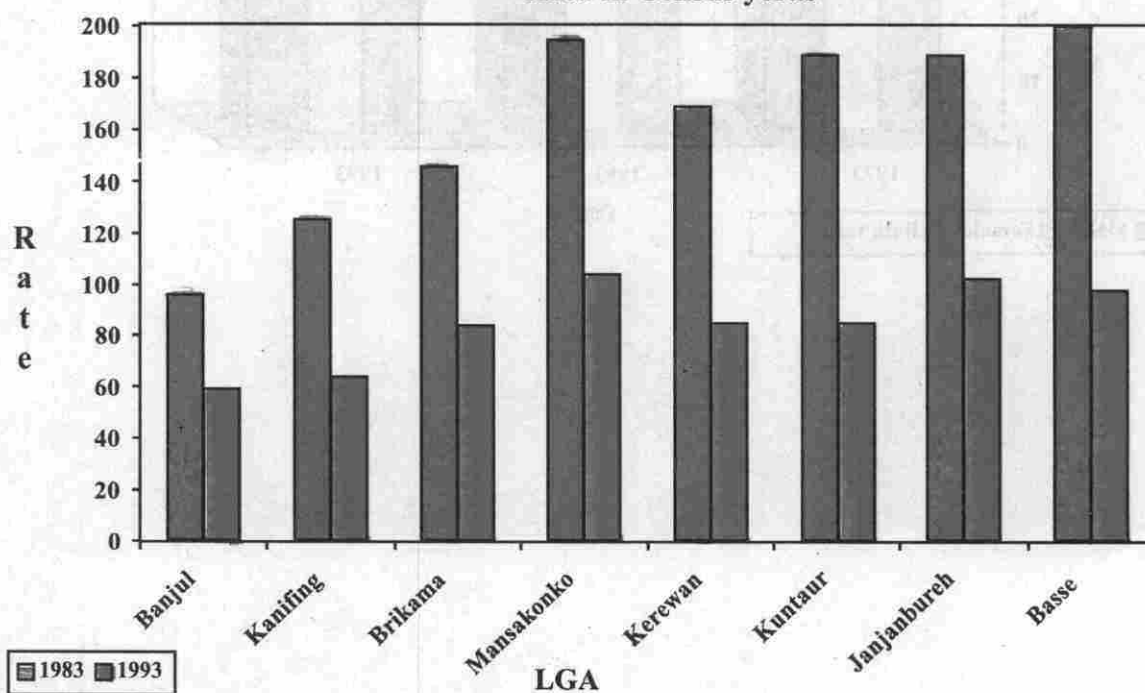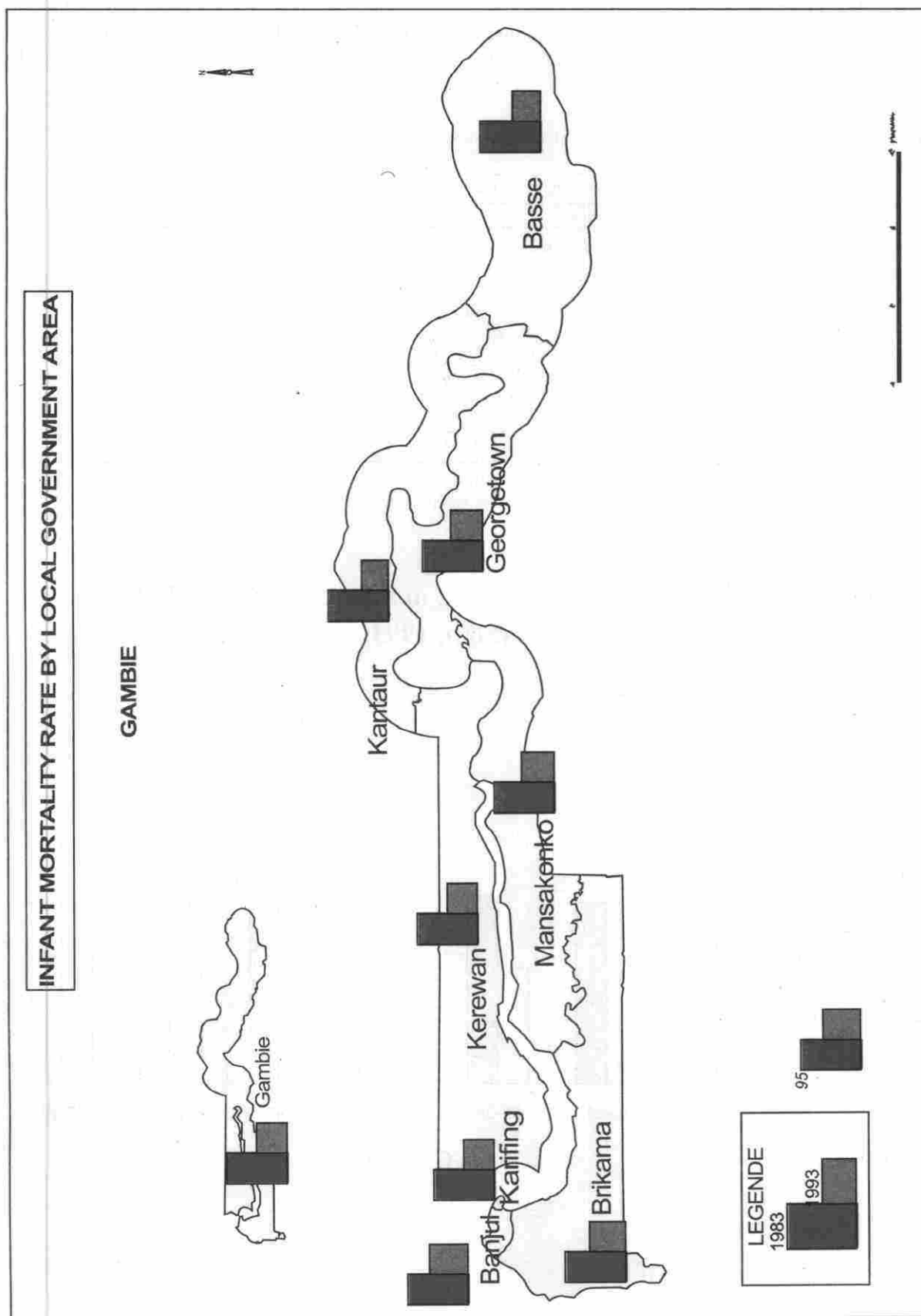
It would be observed from the table above that both life expectancy and infant mortality favours Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama Local Government Areas. This may be explained by the availability of and access to better health facilities that the population in these areas enjoy than their counterparts in other Local Government Areas.

Table 3.21 below shows the probabilities of dying in infancy ($_1q_0$) and before age 5 ($_5q_0$) estimated from the 1993 census. The table shows that in both cases, the probabilities are low for children born to women in age group 20-24. However, the explanation to this may be related to biological, educational and other socio economic factors.

Table 3.21: Probabilities of dying in infancy ($_1q_0$) and before age 5 ($_5q_0$) estimated by indirect methods

Age group of women	Average number of children		($_1q_0$)	($_5q_0$)
	Born	Surviving		
15-19	0.432	0.383	0.092	0.150
20-24	1.665	1.472	0.084	0.135
25-29	3.082	2.667	0.087	0.141
30-34	4.327	3.63	0.096	0.157
35-39	5.116	4.169	0.102	0.168
40-44	5.354	4.154	0.113	0.188
45-49	5.454	4.158	0.109	0.181

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Data for 1963, 1973 and 1983 are not available.

Figure 3.18: Probabilities of dying in Infancy (1q0) and before age 5 (5q0), 1993
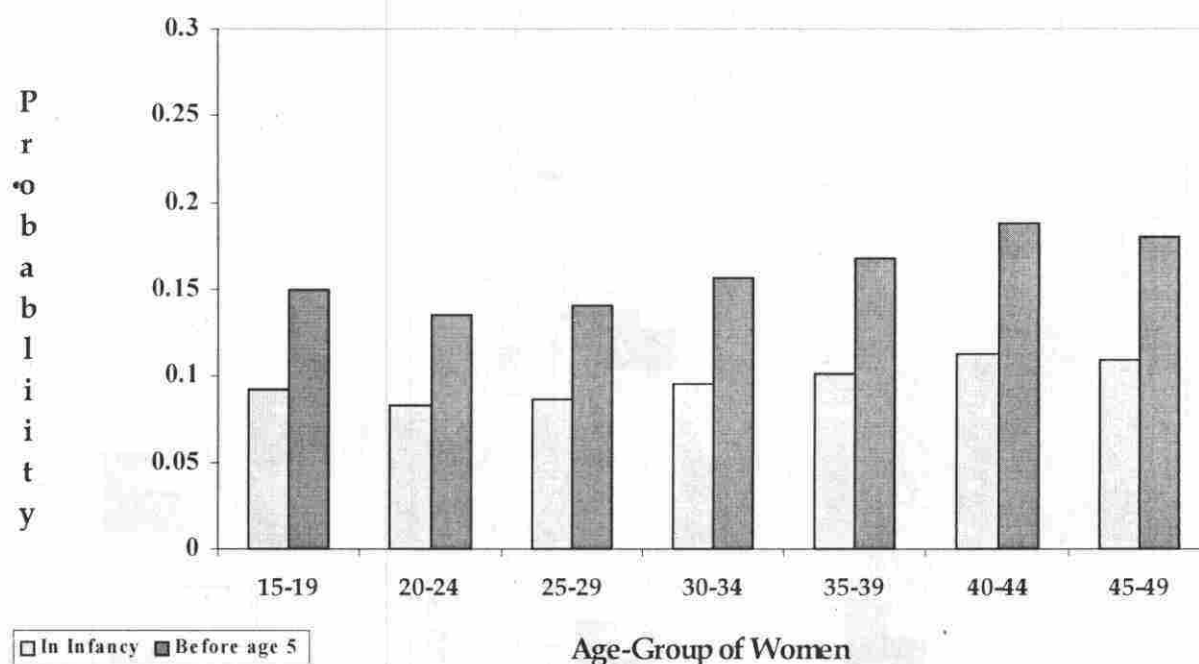
Table 3.22: Probabilities of dying before age 5 ($_5q_0$) estimated by indirect methods: females, 1993 Census

Age group of women	Average number of children		($_5q_0$)
	Born	Surviving	
15-19	0.211	0.189	0.141
20-24	0.814	0.726	0.125
25-29	1.499	1.311	0.132
30-34	2.103	1.786	0.146
35-39	2.494	2.059	0.157
40-44	2.598	2.044	0.178
45-49	2.615	2.025	0.170

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Data for 1963, 1973 and 1983 are not available.

Table 3.23: Probabilities of dying before age 5 ($_5q_0$) estimated by indirect methods: males, 1993 Census

Age group of women	Average number of children		($_5q_0$)
	Born	Surviving	
15-19	0.221	0.194	0.157
20-24	0.851	0.745	0.146
25-29	1.581	1.356	0.150
30-34	2.223	1.844	0.167
35-39	2.622	2.109	0.178
40-44	2.756	2.110	0.198
45-49	2.838	2.133	0.189

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Data for 1963, 1973 and 1983 are not available.

Figure 3.19: Probabilities of Dying Before age 5 (5q0), 1993
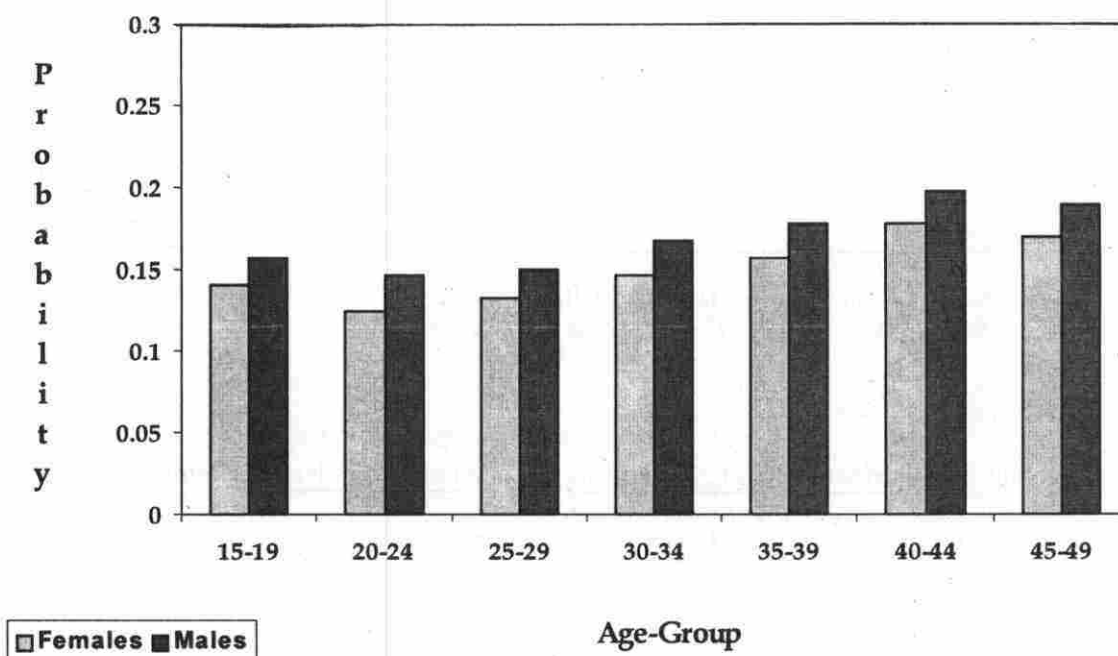
Tables 3.22 and 3.23 above show the probabilities of dying before age 5, females and males respectively. It is important to mention that the probabilities of dying in infancy were not disaggregated by sex. Comparison of the two tables shows high probabilities for males than females, suggesting that under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) was higher among male children.

3.4 Migration

The study of migration in the censuses undertaken was mainly centered on internal migration. The limited information on international migration relates to immigrants whereas the characteristics of emigrants were never investigated.

3.4.1 International migration

It would be recalled from table 2.2 above that the population enumerated as non-Gambian in 1963, 1973, 1983 and 1993 were 35,555, 52,002, 60,796 and 134,118 respectively. Below is the distribution of these by nationality.

Table 3.24: Non-Gambian Population by Nationality (%) in Census Years

Nationality	Census years			
	1963	1973	1983	1993
Senegalese	60.5	48.7	53.3	60.8
Guinean (Bissau)	13.2	13.1	9.2	6.3
Guinean (Conakary)	14.8	19.5	20.7	20.7
Sierra Leonean	2.0	0.8	0.8	1.2
Mauritanian	1.6	3.6	3.0	1.7
Malian	5.4	10.5	7.1	4.7
Other African	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.9
Non-African	1.7	2.2	4.1	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Senegalese continue to dominate the foreign population. This was simply because of the proximity of Senegal on the one hand and the instability in the southern Casamance province on the other. The Sierra Leonean population, which was below 1.0 percent of the foreign population in 1973 and 1983, rose to 1.2 percent in 1993. This may be explained by the influx of refugees fleeing from the civil war in that country. Other nationalities within the sub-region continue to be significant among the foreign population notably Guineans (Conakry) and Mauritanians whose presence could be felt in the trade sector of the economy and Malians who are active in arable farming.

Table 3.25: Non-Gambian Population by nationality and sex (%) in census years

Nationality	Census years							
	1963		1973		1983		1993	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Senegalese	50.9	49.1	53.7	46.3	50.0	50.0	53.1	46.9
Guinean (Bissau)	61.8	38.2	55.8	44.2	54.4	45.6	52.2	47.8
Guinean (Conakary)	74.6	25.4	73.9	26.1	64.0	36.0	61.0	39.0
Sierra Leonean	52.6	47.4	53.4	46.6	57.3	42.7	56.7	43.3
Mauritanian	85.3	14.7	82.4	17.6	78.1	21.9	86.3	13.7
Malian	79.3	20.7	73.3	26.7	68.9	31.1	66.0	34.0
Other African	59.0	41.0	55.3	44.7	57.3	42.7	63.0	37.0
Non-African	58.2	41.8	61.9	38.1	55.5	44.5	54.9	45.1
Total	58.1	41.9	61.2	38.8	55.9	44.1	56.1	43.9

Source : Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Male dominance of the non-Gambian population is clearly revealed by table 3.25 above and this was across all nationalities and for all years though more important among Mauritanians, Malians, and Guineans (Conakry). This conforms to the sex selectivity of migration.

3.4.2 Net migration

Net migration (NM) is the excess of immigration (I) over emigration (E)

    i.e. NM = I – E

Table 3.26: Net migration rates (%) by census years

Year	Indicators		
	Population growth rate	Rate of natural increase (CBR –CDR)	Net migration rate
1963	-	-	-
1973	4.6	-	-
1983	3.4	2.9	0.5
1993	4.2	3.5	0.7

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

3.4.3 Internal migration

In this section, specific aspects of internal migration notably rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural will be discussed as such internal movements of people are closely linked to the availability of and access to socio-economic facilities and services.

3.4.4 (a) Rural – urban migration

According to the 1993 census, a total of 63,740 people representing 6.1 percent of the population have migrated from rural areas to urban centres. Table3.27 below shows that Banjul and Kanifing which are totally urban received 7.24 and 75.12 percent of these migrants respectively while Brikama, the adjoining Local Government Area to Kanifing received 8.92

Because of the unavailability of data on emigrants as earlier mentioned, it would be difficult to determine the volume of net migration from the above relationship. However, an alternative approach is to estimate the net migration rate by deducting from the growth rate of the population, its rate of natural increase as presented in the table below.

percent. The low in-migration to Banjul as compared to Brikama was the result of limited space on the island with no room for expansion. Of the remaining rural-urban migrants, urban areas in Kerewan and Mansakonko Local Government Areas received 3.01 and 2.16 percent respectively. Local Government Areas further east of the country are less urbanised and attract few migrants from rural areas ie. Kuntaur (0.65%), Janjanbureh (1.55%) and Basse (1.25%).

Table 3.27 further distributes the rural-urban migrants enumerated in each Local Government Area by place of birth. In general, rural areas in Kerewan and Brikama were major senders of migrants to urban areas.

Table 3.27 : Percentage distribution of rural-urban migrants by place of birth (rural) and place of enumeration (urban), 1993

Local Government Area of enumeration	Local Government Area of birth						The Gambia
	Brikama	Mansa-konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjan-bureh	Basse	
Banjul	1.52	0.75	3.03	0.36	0.53	1.05	7.24
Kanifing	26.10	9.49	22.94	4.49	6.10	6.00	75.12
Brikama	0.27	3.47	2.51	0.83	1.08	0.76	8.92
Mansakonko	0.64	0.11	0.70	0.25	0.32	0.14	2.16
Kerewan	0.63	0.53	0.32	0.89	0.40	0.24	3.01
Kuntaur	0.08	0.07	0.24	0.01	0.20	0.05	0.65
Janjanbureh	0.22	0.10	0.17	0.64	0.04	0.38	1.55
Basse	0.29	0.17	0.25	0.19	0.32	0.03	1.25
The Gambia	29.75	14.69	30.16	7.66	8.99	8.65	100.00

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Non-Gambians are excluded

3.4.3 (b) Urban-urban migration

A total of 105,910 persons were urban-urban migrants as at 1993. The distribution of these migrants by Local Government Area of birth and Local Government Area of enumeration is presented in table 3.28 below. The columns of the table indicate their origin (place of birth) while the rows indicate their destination (place of enumeration). It would be observed from the table that Brikama, Kerewan and Banjul Local Government Areas were major senders of urban-urban migrants while Kanifing Local Government Area was their major destination.

Table 3.28 : Percentage distribution of urban-urban migrants by place of birth (urban) and place of enumeration (urban), 1993

LGA of enume-ration	Local Government Area of birth								The Gambia
	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Mansa-konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjan-bureh	Basse	
Banjul	-	0.39	1.25	0.57	2.32	0.43	0.48	1.02	6.46
Kanifing	17.68	-	19.85	6.92	17.04	4.21	5.62	5.94	77.26
Brikama	0.62	0.74	-	2.38	1.84	0.65	0.95	0.74	7.92
Mansa-konko	0.13	0.20	0.48	-	0.50	0.20	0.27	0.18	1.96
Kerewan	0.42	0.38	0.56	0.42	-	0.65	0.30	0.23	2.96
Kuntaur	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.17	-	0.14	0.05	0.57
Janjan-bureh	0.10	0.15	0.19	0.08	0.15	0.44	-	0.36	1.47
Basse	0.15	0.22	0.26	0.12	0.19	0.15	0.30	-	1.39
The Gambia	19.15	2.13	22.65	10.54	22.21	6.73	8.06	8.52	100.00

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: Non-Gambians are excluded

3.4.3 (c) Urban-rural migration

The proportion of migrants moving from urban centres to rural areas was very insignificant according to the 1993 census. In fact, analysis has shown that most of these migrants were either civil servants on postings or staff of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in the areas.

3.4 Population projections

Population projections are usually done to address the intercensal demands for data. Given that the interaction of fertility, mortality and migration direct the behaviour of a population, it is important to make assumptions about the future trends of these dynamics on the basis of their past and current levels. However, the assumptions made under this projection are mainly tied to targets set in the national population policy document.

3.5.1 Assumptions

The total fertility rate (TFR) of 6.04 in 1993 was assumed to decline to 4.14 by 2015. This was tied to the targets of 5.5 for the year 2000 and 5.0 for 2004 set in the population policy.

The age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) for The Gambia is assumed to follow the UN average pattern with a crude birth rate (CBR) of 47.5. The targets set in the population policy are that CBR will drop from 46 per 1000 in 1993 to 44 per 1000 in 2004.

Life expectancy at birth is assumed to increase by 22 percent for males and 24 percent for females during the projection horizon.

Given the targets set in the population policy for crude death rate (CDR) and infant mortality rate (IMR), the model life table assumed to fit The Gambia during the projection horizon is the Coale-Demeny West Model.

The effect of net-migration is assumed to be negligible and hence taken as zero.

3.5.2 The Projected population

With the above assumptions, use was made of the Demproj module in the Spectrum package to do the projection. The projected population to the year 2015 by sex appears in table 3.29 below:

Table 3.29: Projected population of the Gambia by sex and the corresponding density.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Density
1993	519950	518195	1038145	97
1994	540013	537964	1077977	101
1995	560375	558030	1118405	105
1996	581017	578379	1159396	108
1997	601949	599031	1200980	112
1998	623240	620049	1243289	116
1999	644852	641406	1286258	120
2000	666860	663173	1330033	124
2001	689231	685313	1374544	129
2002	711986	707828	1419814	133
2003	735198	730789	1465987	137
2004	758822	754148	1512969	142
2005	782849	777897	1560746	146
2006	807319	802076	1609395	150
2007	832122	826603	1658725	155
2008	857211	851455	1708666	160
2009	882891	876899	1759790	165
2010	909056	902829	1811885	170
2011	935724	929261	1864985	174
2012	962761	956073	1918834	180
2013	990100	983193	1973293	185
2014	1018127	1011003	2029130	190
2015	1046727	1039391	2086118	195

Figure 3,20: Projected Population 1993 - 2015 ('000)
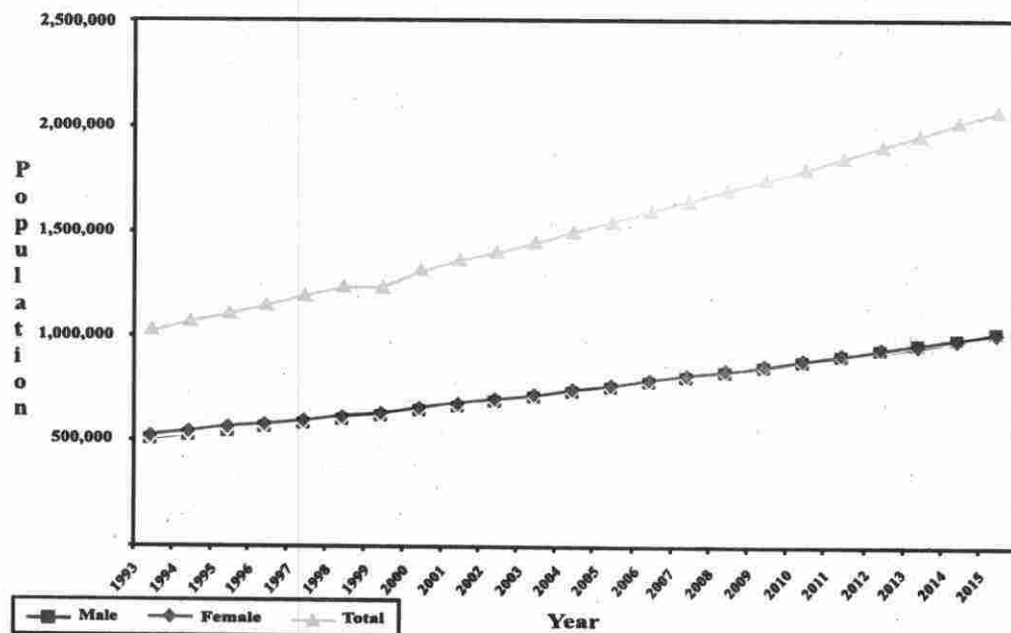
A direct consequence of a growing population is the high population density with increase pressure on land for both agricultural and non- agricultural uses. For a developing economy with a large farming population. sustaining this trend would be difficult.

Figure 3.21: Density for the Projected Population 1993 - 2015
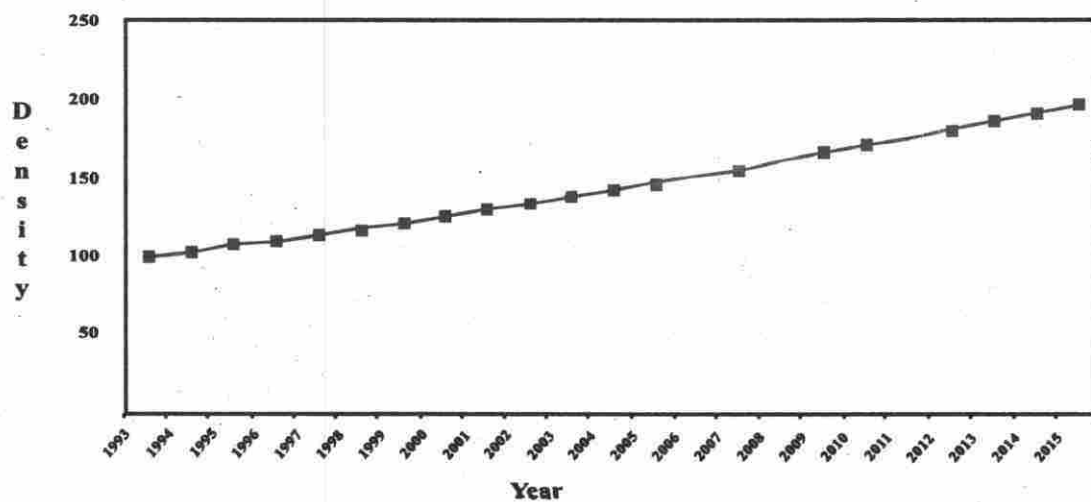
Table 3.30: Summary of some demographic indicators in the projection.

Year	Population under 15 (%)	Population 15-64 (%)	Population 65 and above (%)	Sex ratio	Dependency ratio	Median age
1993	44.54	52.18	3.28	100.34	0.92	18
1994	44.91	51.60	3.50	100.38	0.94	17
1995	45.26	51.17	3.57	100.42	0.95	17
1996	45.56	50.89	3.54	100.46	0.96	17
1997	45.75	50.78	3.46	100.49	0.97	17
1998	45.79	50.83	3.37	100.51	0.97	17
1999	45.71	51.03	3.26	100.54	0.96	17
2000	45.52	51.34	3.14	100.56	0.95	17
2001	45.27	51.70	3.02	100.57	0.93	17
2002	45.02	52.06	2.92	100.59	0.92	17
2003	44.81	52.34	2.85	100.60	0.91	17
2004	44.65	52.54	2.81	100.62	0.90	17
2005	44.57	52.63	2.79	100.64	0.90	17
2006	44.58	52.64	2.79	100.65	0.90	18
2007	44.64	52.58	2.78	100.67	0.90	18
2008	44.77	52.46	2.76	100.68	0.91	18
2009	44.23	53.05	2.73	100.68	0.89	18
2010	43.68	53.62	2.70	100.69	0.86	18
2011	43.15	54.18	2.67	100.70	0.85	18
2012	42.64	54.17	2.66	100.70	0.83	18
2013	42.12	54.21	2.67	100.70	0.81	18
2014	41.62	55.67	2.71	100.70	0.80	19
2015	41.14	56.10	2.77	100.71	0.78	19

Chapter IV
Health and nutrition

The Gambia has witnessed significant developments in the health sector in recent years. However, with a high percentage of the population living in the rural areas, much still remains to be done to close the wide disparity in health status between the urban and rural areas. Efforts in this direction should not only be centered on the availability of health facilities and services to the rural community, but their accessibility and affordability should equally be dealt with. Although, the 1993 census has shown that infant mortality and maternal mortality rates have declined, there are indications that pregnant women and children under five years of age remain the most affected by sickness and premature death. Majority of these are caused by infectious diseases, notably malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and malnutrition.

4.1 Incidence and prevalence of main diseases

4.1.1 Malaria

Malaria is said to be the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the Gambia, though there are seasonal variations with most incidences occurring during the rainy season (July – October). In 1995, it was estimated that 6.3 per 1000 infants and 10.7 per 1000 children aged 1-4 years old died of malaria. In general, it is estimated that 4.0% of infant deaths and 25.0% of deaths in children aged 1-5 years are due to malaria.

4.1.2 Diarrhea

Two studies conducted namely the Household Education and Health Survey (HEHS; 1993) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS; 1996) reported a diarrhea incidence rate of 24.0 and 17.0 percent respectively. However, seasonal variations and definitional differences may have accounted for the reduction.

The availability of safe drinking water is a major factor in the incidence of diarrhea. The MICS has found that on average 69.0 percent of households reported having access to safe water supplies though there were regional variations.

4.1.3 Acute respiratory infections (ARI)

The ARI programme commenced in 1994. Prior to the introduction of the programme, hospital statistics have shown that ARI ranked second (after malaria) as a reason for attendance at a health facility. The Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) annual report of 1993 has indicated that over 9.0 percent of children admitted were due to ARI, ranking it as the third most common diagnosis for children. During the seven years period 1990-1996, reported health statistics have shown that 145,600 cases of upper and lower respiratory tract infection were diagnosed each year of which 73,000 were in government out patient departments and 72,600 in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) clinics.

4.2 Antenatal care and supervised deliveries

Findings of the 1990 Gambia Contraceptive Prevalence and Fertility Determinants Survey (GCPFDS) on pre-natal care and delivery assistance are presented in table 4.1 below. It would be observed from the table that among births occurred during the five years preceding the study, 75.9 percent of mothers received pre-natal care by a trained nurse or midwife while 15.0 percent received care from a doctor. In other words the study shows that over 90 percent of all pregnant women during the preceding five years made at least one visit to a modern health facility.

In contrast however, the study shows that only 44.1 percent of all deliveries during the same period were assisted by personnel from a modern health facility i.e. 8.4 percent by doctors and 35.7 percent by nurse or midwife. Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) on the other hand, assisted in over 33 percent of the deliveries.

Table 4.1: Percentage distribution of mothers who received pre-natal care and delivery assistance by type of service

Type of service	Service provider						
	Doctor	Nurse / midwife	TBA	Other	Not stated	No care	Total
Pre-natal care	15.0	75.9	4.9	0.6	1.2	2.5	100.0
Supervised delivery	8.4	35.7	33.1	20.7	1.2	0.8	100.0

Source: GCPFDS, 1990.
Note: Data is not available by LGA.

Figure 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Mothers who received Pre-natal Care and Delivery Assistance by Type of Service 1990
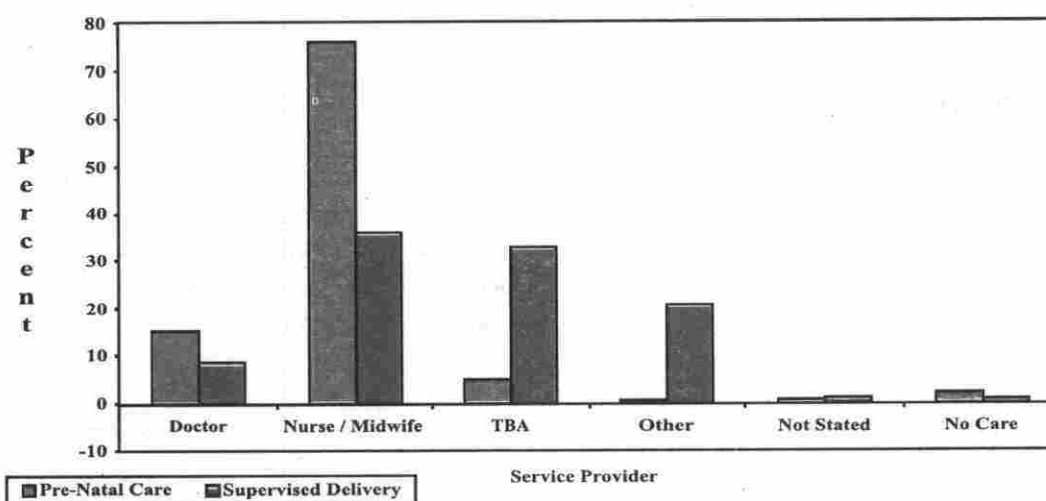
Table 4.2 below shows the MICS 200 findings on delivery assistance by type of personnel. The study revealed that skilled personnel supervised 54.6 per cent of births to women in the reproductive age bracket of 15-49. This increase over the 1990 GCPFDS findings (44.1%) suggests significant improvements in the healthcare delivery systems over the years although wide disparities are observed between urban and rural areas as well as across LGA's.

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 with a birth in the last year by type of personnel assisting at delivery

Local Government Area/residence	Doctor	Nurse/mid-wife	Auxiliary nurse	Traditional birth attendant	Relative/Friend	Others/missing	No assistance	Any skilled personnel
Banjul	16.7	66.7	7.9	0.8	0.8	0.0	7.1	91.3
Kanifing	4.0	77.8	1.6	3.2	4.0	2.4	7.1	83.3
Brikama	3.8	51.5	3.8	21.5	13.8	3.1	2.3	59.2
Mansakonko	0.9	43.0	7.5	42.1	4.7	0.0	1.9	51.4
Kerewan	7.8	37.9	4.3	38.8	5.5	0.0	1.7	50.0
Kuntaur	5.0	23.7	0.0	36.2	26.9	1.9	6.2	28.7
Janjanbureh	1.0	51.3	5.1	32.3	17.2	2.0	11.1	37.4
Basse	2.7	24.2	2.0	38.9	21.5	5.4	5.4	28.9
Urban	3.7	72.4	2.0	9.3	5.4	1.9	5.3	78.1
Rural	4.5	33.9	3.6	33.8	17.0	2.2	4.0	41.9
The Gambia	4.2	47.4	3.1	25.2	12.9	2.8	4.4	54.6

Source: MICS 2000

4.3 Immunisation

The Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) which started in 1979 proved to be successful. Table 4.3 shows the reported cases of immunisable diseases between 1990-1996. The table shows high incidence of measles and meningitis in 1993 and 1996 respectively, calling for increase commitment to the program, which bore fruitful results. The general trend depicted by the table is a decline in the incidence of immunisable diseases.

Table 4.3: Reported cases of immunisable diseases, 1990-1994

Disease	Year						
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Measles	72	111	111	804	242	195	312
Polio	1	1	4	0	0	7	2
Pertusis	21	1	0	0	0	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Neonatal Tetanus	32	18	21	8	8	7	2
Meningitis	49	33	9	14	23	46	1,374

Source: The Gambia Social Sector Consultation, Background Documents Volume 2-Health
Note: Data is not available by LGA

Table 4.4 below shows the coverage of the EPI program between 1990-1995. The table reveals a rising trend in coverage and by 1995, about 80.0 percent of infants and 87.0 percent of children under 2 years were fully immunised.

Table 4.4: Proportion of target population immunised with EPI Programme vaccines

Antigen	Year					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
BCG	98.2	97.4	96.8	97.8	99.1	99.4
Polio 3	94.1	94.2	86.2	92.2	96.5	98.4
DPT 3	91.8	84.7	84.8	90.0	92.6	96.3
Measles	85.9	86.6	83.4	87.1	88.6	91.1
Yellow fever	85.5	87.4	82.5	87.4	88.1	91.1
% < 1 yr fully immunised	65.5	63.0	66.4	70.6	74.1	79.8
% < 2 yr fully immunised	80.9	83.0	74.2	79.9	83.3	87.0
TT3	72.8	77.0	86.6	81.9	78.8	86.0

Source: The Gambia Social Sector Consultation, Background Documents Volume 2-Health
Note: Data is not available by LGA

Figure 4.2: Proportion of Target Population Fully Immunised with EPI Program Vaccines
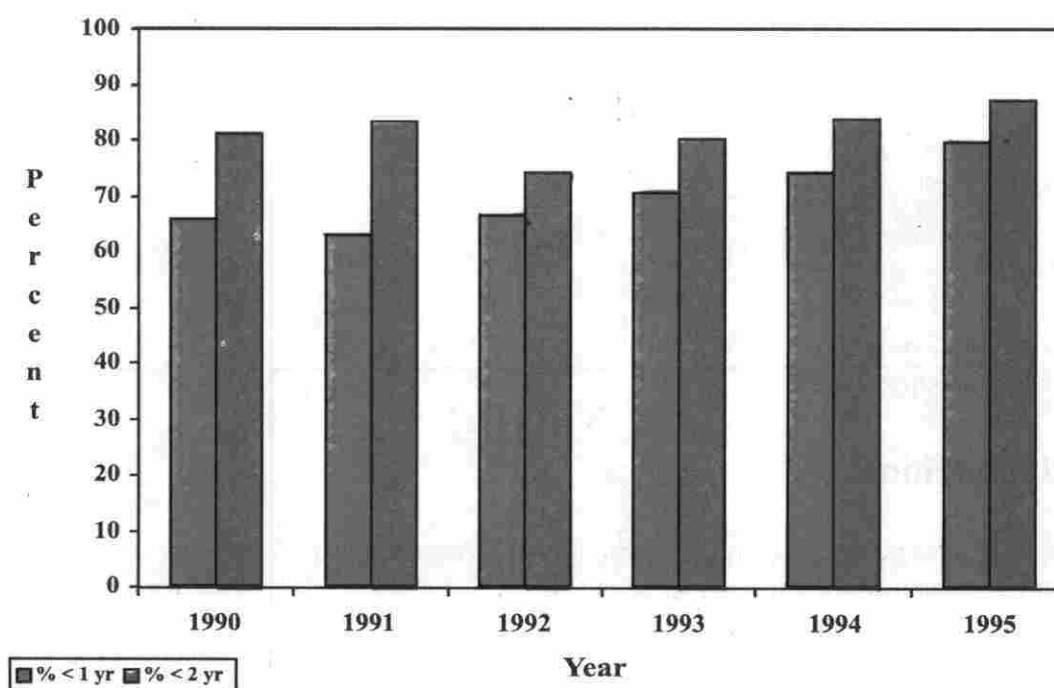
The MICS 2000 findings on immunisation coverage for children 12-23 months old are presented in table 4.5 below. According to the table, male children were fully immunised than their female counterparts. An interesting feature of the table is that the coverage of child immunisation was high in rural areas and in LGA's farer from Banjul than in urban areas and LGA's nearer to Banjul.

Table 4.5: Percentage of children 12-23 months currently vaccinated against childhood diseases

Local Government Area/residence	BCG	DPT1	DPT2	DPT3	Polio 0	Polio 1	Polio 2	Polio 3	Measles	All	None	% with health card
Banjul	90.5	89.5	85.7	77.1	87.6	92.4	88.6	75.2	82.9	65.7	5.7	76.2
Kanifing	93.3	94.3	78.1	63.8	93.3	94.3	92.4	80.0	88.6	57.1	2.9	93.3
Brikama	91.1	88.1	83.2	63.4	87.1	92.1	87.1	77.2	89.1	52.5	5.5	86.1
Mansakonko	83.8	83.8	83.8	76.5	86.8	85.3	82.4	76.5	80.9	64.7	10.3	89.7
Kerewan	92.5	90.3	88.8	76.1	88.8	94.0	89.6	82.8	87.3	64.9	3.0	88.8
Kuntaur	86.6	91.0	84.3	72.4	88.8	91.0	87.3	79.1	89.6	66.4	8.2	88.1
Janjanbureh	94.0	92.9	86.9	82.1	90.5	90.5	90.5	88.1	92.9	79.8	6.0	89.3
Basse	97.9	96.9	93.8	88.5	96.9	99.0	100.0	84.8	86.5	74.0	0.0	99.0
Male	94.7	92.1	85.7	73.7	93.0	93.2	91.4	81.2	88.6	65.1	2.8	92.6
Female	90.9	91.3	85.0	70.4	88.4	94.8	90.9	80.2	87.4	58.4	4.8	88.8
Urban	91.7	93.1	82.5	70.0	91.6	93.8	91.1	78.1	86.0	57.4	3.7	90.6
Rural	93.6	90.9	87.1	73.4	90.3	94.1	91.2	82.3	89.2	64.7	3.5	91.6
The Gambia	92.9	91.7	85.3	72.2	90.8	94.0	91.2	80.7	88.0	61.9	3.7	90.8

Source : MICS, 2000

Table 4.6 below presented the MICS results on protection against neonatal tetanus among pregnant women. In general, there was impressive immunisation coverage against neonatal tetanus among mothers in the 12 months preceding the study.

Table 4.6: Percentage of mothers with a birth in the last 12 months protected against neonatal tetanus

Local Government Area/residence	Received at least 2 doses last 3 years	Received at least 3 doses last 10 years	Received at least 5 doses during lifetime	Protected against tetanus
Banjul	76.2	0.0	0.8	77.0
Kanifing	74.6	0.8	0.0	75.4
Brikama	73.1	1.5	0.0	74.6
Mansakonko	75.7	0.9	0.0	76.6
Kerewan	83.6	0.0	0.0	83.6
Kuntaur	71.2	0.6	0.0	71.9
Janjanbureh	62.6	2.0	2.0	66.7
Basse	79.2	1.3	0.0	80.5
Urban	74.3	0.5	0.0	74.8
Rural	76.9	1.4	0.1	78.4
The Gambia	76.0	1.1	0.1	77.1

Source : MICS, 2000

4.4 Malnutrition

Proper and adequate nutrition is a pre-requisite for better health of a population particularly for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. This section aims to investigate the extent of malnutrition among Gambian children based on analysis done in two reports namely Draft Report of National Anthropometriz Survey, 1998 and the 1998 National Household Poverty Survey Report. In both reports, the three dimensions of malnutrition were looked at i.e. Height for Age, Weight for Height and Weight for Age.

According to the Anthropometriz Survey Report, malnourished children under three years of age were grouped according to the number of standard deviations that they fell below normal. It would be observed from table 4.7 below that the bulk of children studied were malnourished below one standard deviation of normal for all dimensions of malnutrition. In fact, nearly half of the children studied were weight for age malnourished (48.9%). As one deviates by two and three standard deviations below normal, the number of children whose malnutrition reaches that scale reduces.

Table 4.7: Malnutrition indicators for children under 3years of age (%)

Z-Score	<-1.0	<-2.0	<-3.0
Height for Age	39.5	12.4	2.6
Weight for Height	35.0	14.4	0.5
Weight for Age	48.9	17.3	3.2

Source: Draft Report of National Anthropometriz Survey, 1998. Based
on weighted averages of six health divisions.

The poverty survey on the other hand, studied children under five years and grouped them according to the severity of their situation i.e. normal, mild, moderate and severe. It would be observed from table 4.8 below that the extent of mild malnutrition was more in females than males across all dimensions o malnutrition while moderate and severe malnutrition tends to hit males more. In general, male children appear to be better nourished than their female counterparts.

Table 4.8: Percentage distribution of children aged 3-59 months by malnutrition indicators and sex

Indicator	Normal			Mild			Moderate			Severe		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Height for age	73	72	73	10	14	12	7	6	6	10	8	9
Weight for height	78	66	72	16	27	21	3	6	4	3	2	2
Weight for age	80	77	79	11	14	12	6	6	6	3	3	3

Source: 1998 National Household Poverty Survey Report

Figure 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Children Aged 3-59 months by Malnutrition Indicators and Sex
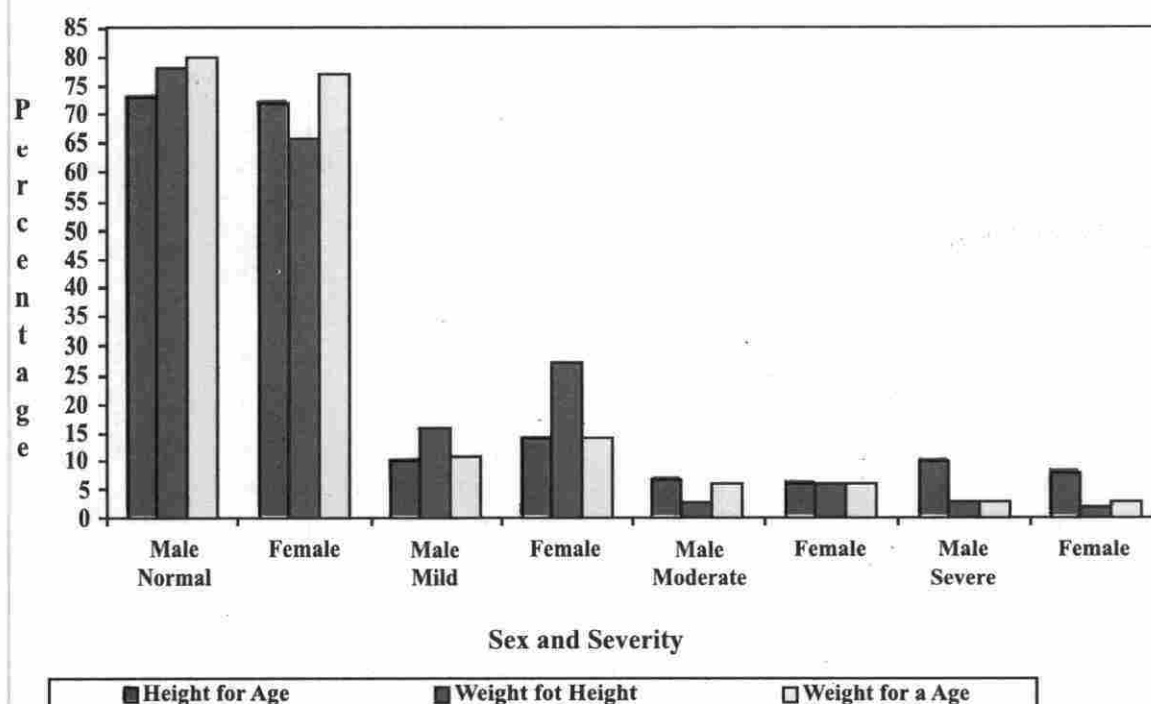
Chapter V
Economic carateristics

5.1 General economic situation

The Gambia is a small country of 10,689 sq km lying along the west coast of Africa. It is bordered on the north, south and east by Senegal and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. The economy is largely agricultural with about 80 percent of the population engaged in arable farming. On average, agriculture contributes about 24 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) whilst industry and services accounts for 13 and 63 percent respectively. GDP per capita was estimated at US $259 as at 1998.

The Gambia is not endowed with any mineral potential. The river Gambia which is navigable throughout the year is the most significant natural resource. In addition to the growing of groundnuts and cotton as cash crops, cereal crops notably rice, millet, sorghum and maize are widely grown for subsistence purpose. However, there is a gender division of labour in agriculture. The cultivation of groundnuts as a major cash crop and primary source of foreign exchange is dominated by men while women dominate in the cultivation of rice as a staple food. The women folk also actively engage in vegetable gardening during the long dry season particularly in the western half of the country. While fishing is done on a large scale in almost all-coastal towns/villages, livestock notably cattle, sheep and goats are reared by the Fulas who inhabit most of the eastern half of the country.

Diversifying the economy has been a priority of the Gambia government since independence. Attempts in this direction bore fruitful results with the expansion of both the industry and services sectors of the economy. In the industry sector for example, manufacturing, provision of electricity and water (utilities) and construction and mining have grown substantially over the years. Expansion in the services sector could partly be explained by the growth in hotels and restaurants, which could further be explained by government's efforts since the late 1960's to develop tourism as a viable source of foreign exchange. Significant growth has also been witnessed over the years in the transport and communications sub-sector particularly in the area of telecommunication and maritime transport while the trade sub-sector which was depressed in the early 1990's has began to regain its momentum.

Table: 5.1 :   GDP by kind of economic activity, 1983 – 1998 ('000 of dalasis at 1976/77 market prices)

Year	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Net indirect taxes	Total
1983/84	97,160	53,148	281,776	-	432,084
1984/85	107,141	52,380	279,478	-	438,999
1985/86	113,575	52,834	290,319	-	456,728
1986/87	121,370	60,752	287,255	-	469,377
1987/88	120,158	56,758	299,627	-	476,570
1988/89	116,983	59,124	322,318	-	498,425
1989/90	127,101	65,049	334,036	-	526,186
1990/91	109,248	63,141	362,756	-	535,145
1991/92	123,531	64,181	376,605	-	564,317
1992/93	106,069	68,324	392,408	-	566,801
1993/94	119,580	71,421	413,047	-	604,048
1994	118,515	65,469	329,043	53,217	566,244
1995	129,962	63,054	319,709	39897	552,622
1996	119,593	65,707	341,747	48,244	575,291
1997	127,906	66,052	367,397	47,342	608,697
1998	131,688	69,514	383,404	55,185	639,791

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.
Note: GDP figures by kind of economic activity are not available for the years before 1983/84

Figure 5.1: GDP at 1976/77 Market Prices
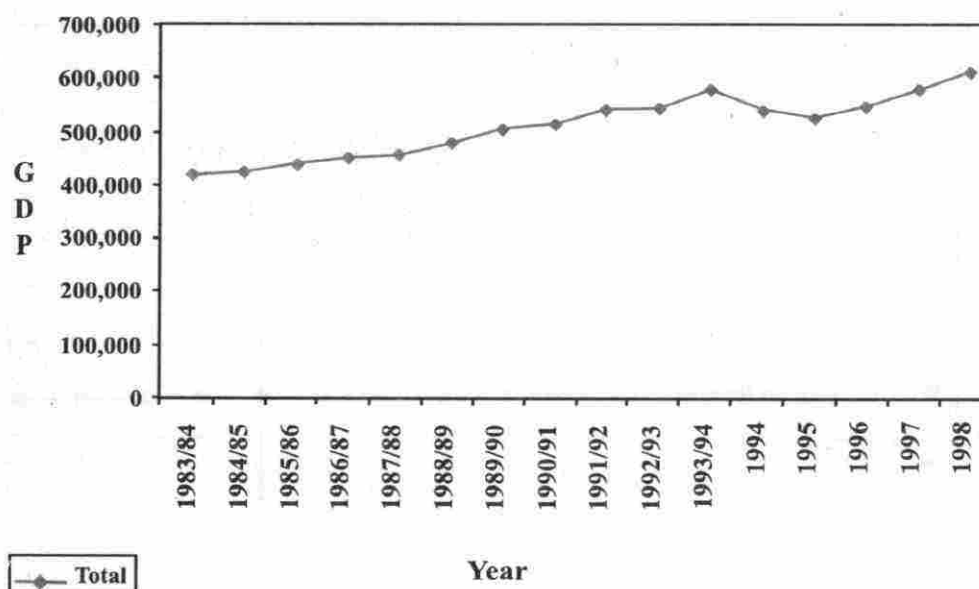
| Total |

Year

Table 5.2: Contribution to GDP by kind of economic activity (%) 1983-1998 at 1976/77 market prices

Year	Agriculture	Industry	Services	Net indirect taxes	Total
1983/84	22.49	12.30	65.21	-	100.00
1984/85	24.41	11.93	63.66	-	100.00
1985/86	24.87	11.57	63.56	-	100.00
1986/87	25.86	12.94	61.20	-	100.00
1987/88	25.21	11.92	62.87	-	100.00
1988/89	23.47	11.86	64.67	-	100.00
1989/90	24.16	12.36	63.48	-	100.00
1990/91	20.41	11.80	67.79	-	100.00
1991/92	21.89	11.37	66.74	-	100.00
1992/93	18.71	12.05	69.23	-	100.00
1993/94	19.80	11.82	68.38	-	100.00
1994	20.93	11.56	58.11	9.40	100.00
1995	23.52	11.41	57.85	7.22	100.00
1996	20.79	11.42	59.40	8.39	100.00
1997	21.01	10.85	60.36	7.78	100.00
1998	20.58	10.86	59.93	8.62	100.00

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Figure 5.2: Contribution to GDP by Kind of Economic Activity (%) at 1976/77 Market Prices
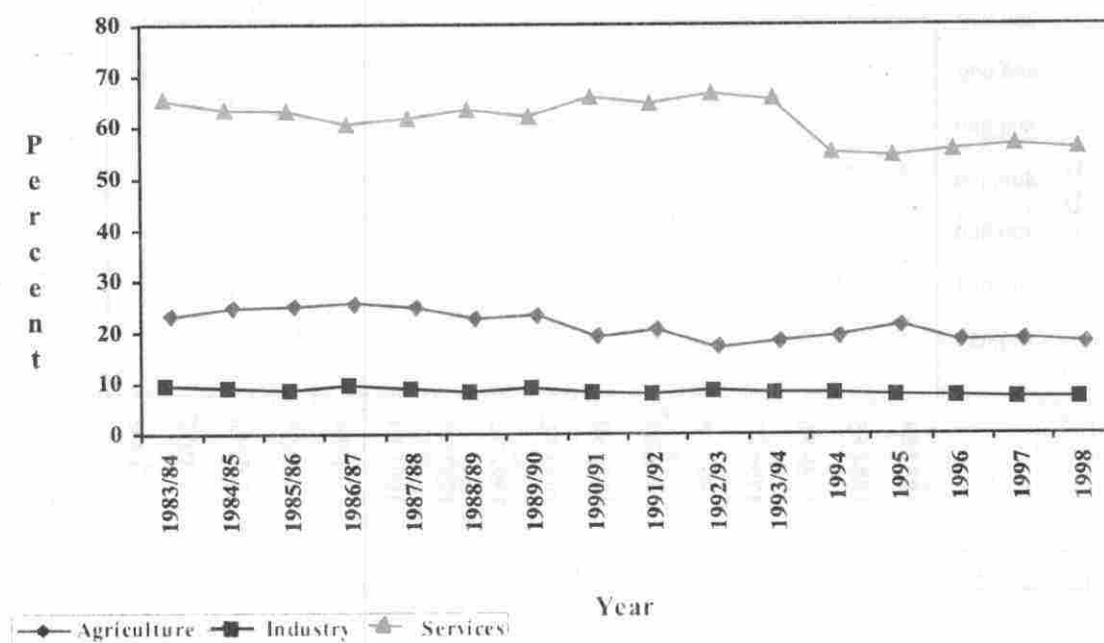
Table 5.3: GDP at constant 1976/77 market prices (in million dalasis) and annual growth rate

Year	GDP	Annual growth rate (%)
1975/76	345.3	-
1976/77	354.6	2.59
1977/78	336.0	-5.24
1978/79	365.4	8.75
1979/80	371.1	1.56
1980/81	341.8	-7.90
1981/82	372.8	9.07
1982/83	470.7	26.26
1983/84	432.1	-8.20
1984/85	439.0	1.60
1985/86	456.7	4.03
1986/87	469.4	2.78
1987/88	476.6	1.53
1988/89	498.4	4.57
1989/90	526.2	5.58
1990/91	535.1	1.69
1991/92	564.3	5.46
1992/93	566.8	0.44
1993/94	604.0	6.56
1994	566.2	-6.26
1995	552.6	-2.40
1996	575.3	4.11
1997	608.7	5.81
1998	639.8	5.11

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Figure5.3: Annual Growth Rate (%) of GDP
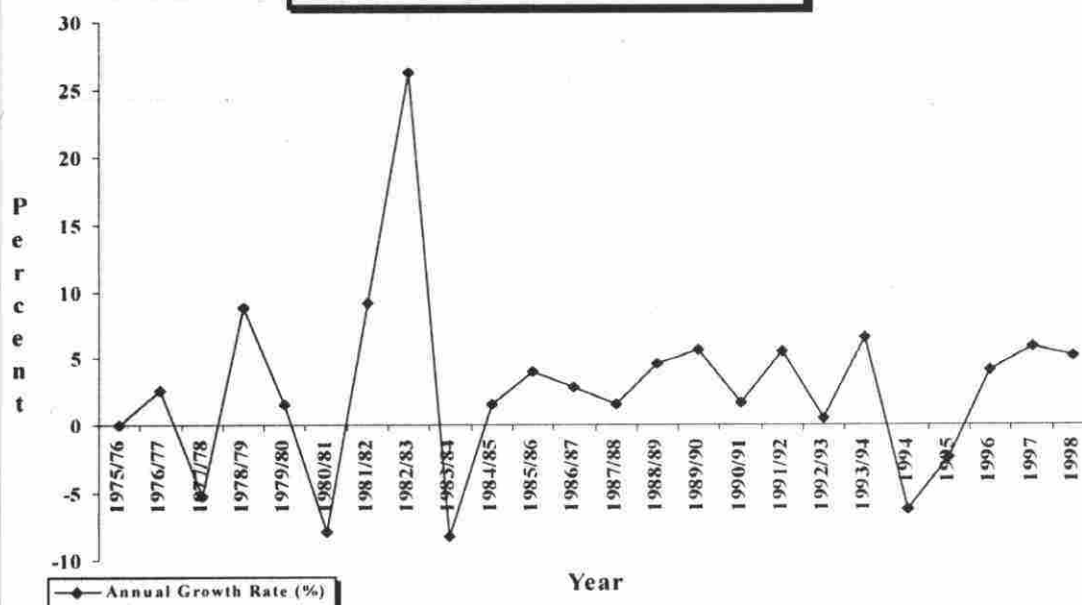
5.2 Agriculture and environment

Agricultural production particularly arable farming correlates with the environment. The general expectation is that better environmental quality will increase agriculture production whereas production declines with deteriorating environment. Evidence across the country has shown that a lot of forest cover has been lost to intense human activity. This degrades the environment with high threats of desertification and salinisation.

The rapid deterioration of the environment has prompted government to upgrade the Environment Unit into the National Environment Agency (NEA) in 1993. The NEA was formally established by an act of parliament in 1994 and was mandated to create awareness about the adverse effects of degrading environment and map out plans that would protect and sustain the remaining natural heritage. The formulation and adoption of the Gambia Environment Action Plan (GEAP) in 1992 preceded this.

Note: No data is available on environmental degradation

5.2.1 Cereal production

Basic foods consumed in The Gambia are cereals notably rice, millet, sorghum and maize. Of these, rice is outstanding. However, amongst certain ethnic groups and within certain regions, millet, sorghum and maize are heavily consumed. Therefore, cereal production in The Gambia is primarily for subsistence purposes and extends to the cultivation of all these crops.

Table 5.4 below shows time series data on cereal production in The Gambia since 1974. Although production fluctuates, maximum rice production was recorded in 1980 (42.7 tons). There after, the trend starts declining and never rose to that level. The production of late millet and sorghum were highest in 1982 but shrinks thereafter whilst maximum maize production was registered in 1985. It is interestingly observed from the table that production of early millet gained momentum from the mid 1980's.This may be explained by the continuous poor performance of late millet due to the early end of the rains thereby causing farmers to shift attention to the cultivation of early millet.

Table 5.4: Cereal production in The Gambia 1974–1997 (1000 tons)

Year	Production				
	Rice	Early millet	Late millet	Sorghum	Maize
1974	26.1	6.8	11.4	8.0	10.9
1975	27.2	9.7	9.3	7.4	4.8
1976	18.0	3.0	8.1	9.6	4.5
1977	17.2	4.4	6.4	11.9	7.0
1978	28.3	9.5	10.3	12.2	9.5
1979	29.4	1.7	7.0	8.8	6.6
1980	42.7	5.5	9.9	13.7	6.3
1981	39.5	14.1	14.7	12.8	12.5
1982	33.7	16.9	16.8	15.7	17.0
1983	26.1	14.1	11.7	7.1	8.5
1984	27.2	22.9	15.6	8.2	12.5
1985	23.1	43.0	11.6	11.6	26.5
1986	24.5	38.7	12.4	9.0	17.3
1987	20.4	38.2	11.4	6.6	15.4
1988	30.5	33.7	14.3	7.2	15.5
1989	20.6	38.0	12.7	10.7	14.1
1990	21.4	36.1	10.9	8.3	13.6
1991	20.5	39.6	9.1	12.6	20.4
1992	22.4	36.0	10.6	13.3	18.2
1993	19.4	43.7	8.5	8.9	23.7
1994	20.3	44.1	8.8	9.0	13.2
1995	18.9	43.4	10.6	11.9	13.6
1996	26.3	49.5	12.0	13.7	10.0
1997	24.1	54.4	11.7	12.9	8.5

Source: National Agricultural Sample Survey (NASS)

Figure 5.4: Cereal Production in The Gambia (000 tones)

Rice ◆   **Early Millet** ■   **Late Millet** ▲   **Sorghum** ✕   **Maize** ✳
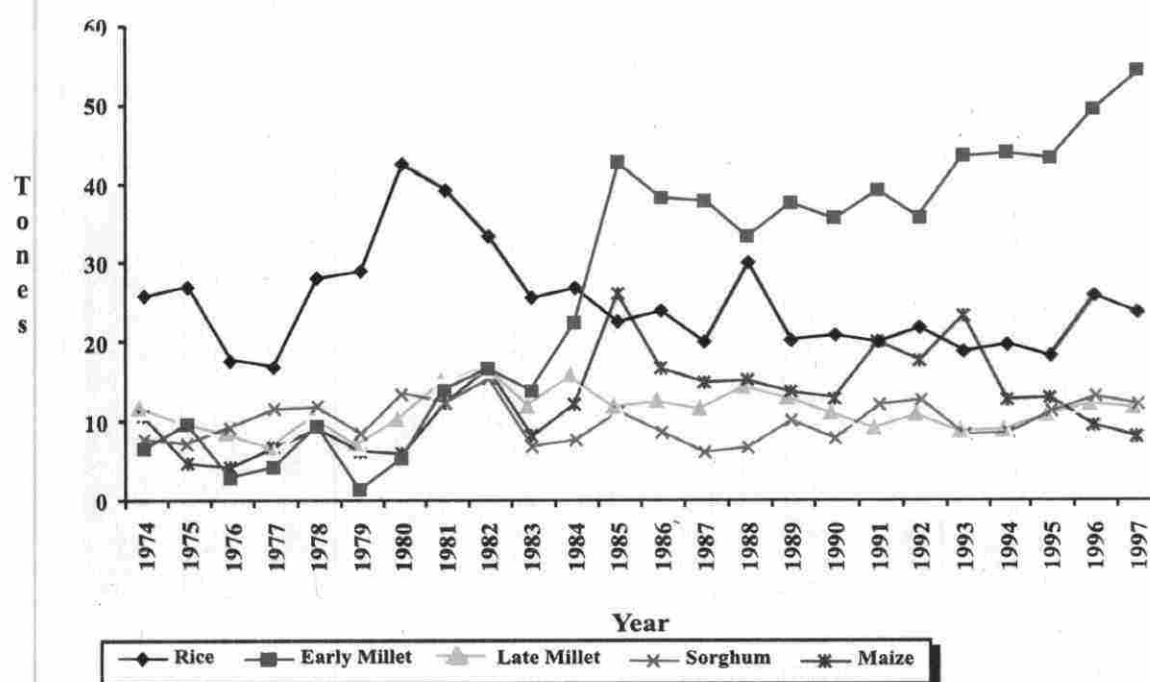
Table 5.5: Gross production compared with estimated net production of cereals for the years 1987-1996

Year	Gross production (1000 tons)					Net production (1000 tons)				
	Rice	Millet	Sorghum	Maize	Total	Rice	Millet	Sorghum	Maize	Total
1987	20.4	49.6	6.6	15.4	92.0	17.3	42.2	5.6	13.1	78.2
1988	30.5	48.0	7.2	15.5	101.2	26.0	40.8	6.1	13.2	86.1
1989	20.6	50.7	10.7	14.1	96.1	17.5	43.1	9.1	12.0	81.7
1990	21.4	47.0	8.3	13.6	90.3	18.2	40.0	7.1	11.6	76.9
1991	20.5	58.7	12.6	20.4	112.2	17.4	49.9	10.7	17.3	95.3
1992	22.4	46.6	13.3	18.2	100.5	19.0	39.6	11.3	15.5	85.4
1993	19.4	52.2	8.9	23.7	104.2	16.5	44.4	7.6	20.1	88.6
1994	20.3	52.9	9.0	13.2	95.4	17.3	45.0	7.6	11.2	81.1
1995	18.9	54.0	11.9	13.6	98.4	16.1	45.9	10.1	11.6	83.7
1996	26.3	61.5	13.7	10.0	111.5	22.4	52.3	11.6	8.5	94.8

Source: National Agricultural Sample Survey, (NASS)
Note 1: Net production equals gross production minus 15% for seed and losses.
   2: Information prior to 1987 is not available

Figure 5.5: Gross Production Compared with Estimated Net Production of Cereals ('000 tones)
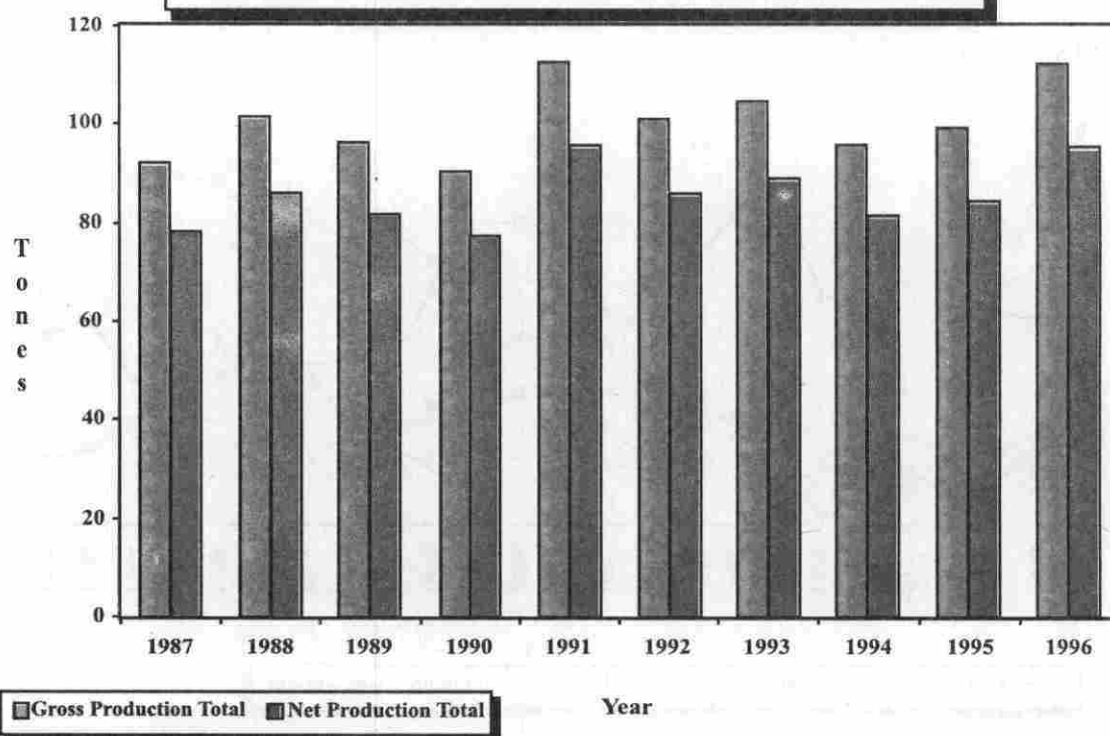
Table 5.6: Gross and net cereal production by Local Government Area, 1996

Local Government Area/residence	Gross Production ('000 tons)	Net production ('000 tons)
Banjul	-	-
Kanifing	-	-
Brikama	11.6	9.8
Mansakonko	10.8	9.2
Kerewan	25.5	21.7
Kuntaur	17.8	15.1
Janjanbureh	15.1	12.9
Basse	22.6	19.2
The Gambia	103.4	87.9

Source: National Agricultural Sample Survey (NASS)

Note: This table does not include the 8.1 tons of irrigated rice production because this was not disagregated by Local Government Area.

Early studies in the relationship between population and subsistence production have documented that an increase in population beyond a certain level would result to a decline in per capita food production and consumption. While acknowledging this fact however, later studies have further argued that gains in technology could make it possible for subsistence production to outpace population growth.

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Profil démographique et socio-économique du Tchad

1960-2000

Direction de la statistique, des études économiques et démographiques du Tchad

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Table 5.7 shows the cereal balance for the year 1987-996. The general picture portrayed in the table is that per capita cereal production declines with increase in population. This suggests that technology, which could reverse the trend, was low.

Food self-sufficiency has been and continues to be featured as an objective in government's agricultural policies\programmes. However, comparison of the production figures and consumption requirements asserts that this objective is yet to be realised. As production always falls short of requirements, the deficit can only be met by food imports (commercial and food aid).

While food self-sufficiency is desirable, it may not be an attainable objective. Once this is recognised, emphasis should be shifted to food security. With food security however, every household should be able to meet their food consumption requirements at all times. The availability of food to meet household consumption demand is therefore, a necessary condition for food security. The table shows that The Gambia had deficit cereal balance for most of the years. With available stock below consumption requirements, this suggests that households were generally food insecure in The Gambia.

Table 5.7: Cereal balance for The Gambia 1987-1996

Variable	Year									
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1. Net production ('000 tons)	78.2	86.1	81.7	76.9	95.3	85.4	88.6	81.1	83.7	94.8
2. Population (1000)	806.0	838.9	873.7	909.6	946.4	985.6	1,026.0	1,068.7	1,111.9	1174.5
3. Net per capita production (tons)	0.097	0.103	0.094	0.084	0.101	0.087	0.086	0.076	0.075	0.081
4. Estimated yearly per capita consumption requirement (tons)	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175
5. Estimated yearly Total consumption requirement (1000 tons)	141.1	146.8	152.9	159.2	165.6	172.5	179.6	187.0	194.6	205.5
6. Total availability (1000 tons)	137.7	143.7	146.7	163.0	168.5	170.3	182.4	171.7	181.8	200.0
7. Cereal balance (6-5)	-3.4	-3.1	-6.2	3.8	2.9	-2.2	2.8	-15.3	-12.8	-5.5
8. Cereal availability / needs ratio (%)	97.6	97.9	95.9	102.4	101.8	98.7	101.6	91.8	93.4	97.3

Source: National Agricultural Sample Survey (NASS)

Figure 5.6: Net Percapita Production of Cereals (tones)
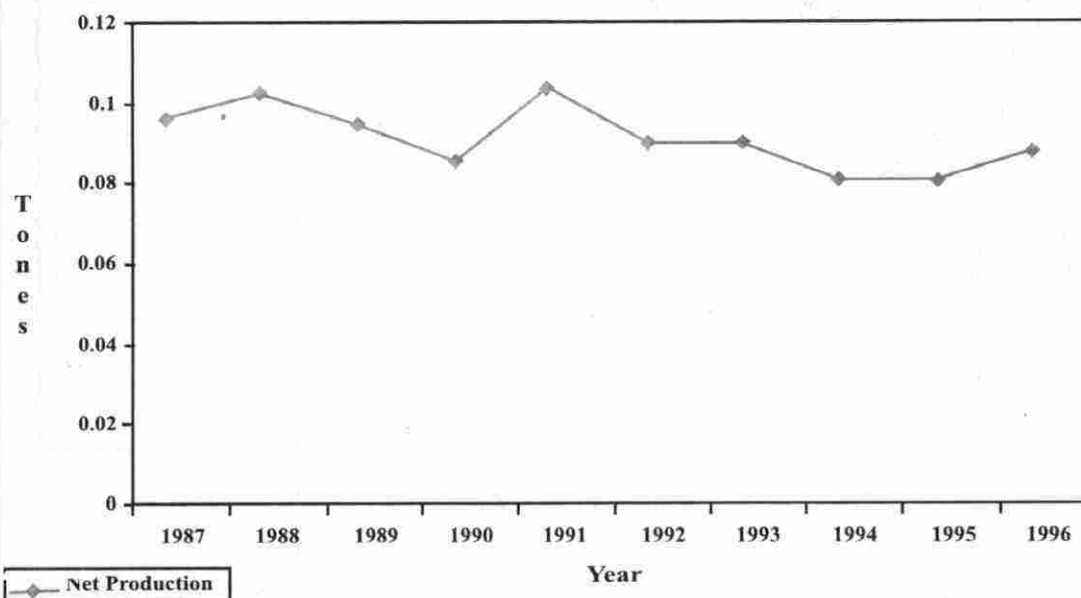
Figure 5.7: Cereal Situation of The Gambia ('000 Tones)
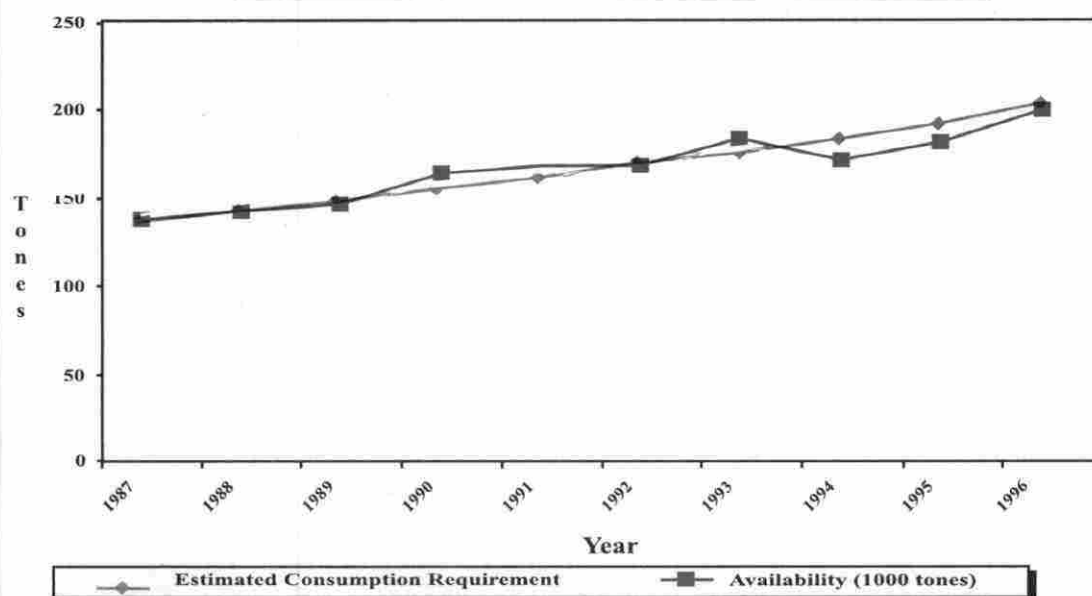
Figure 5.8: Cereal Availability / needs Ratio (%)
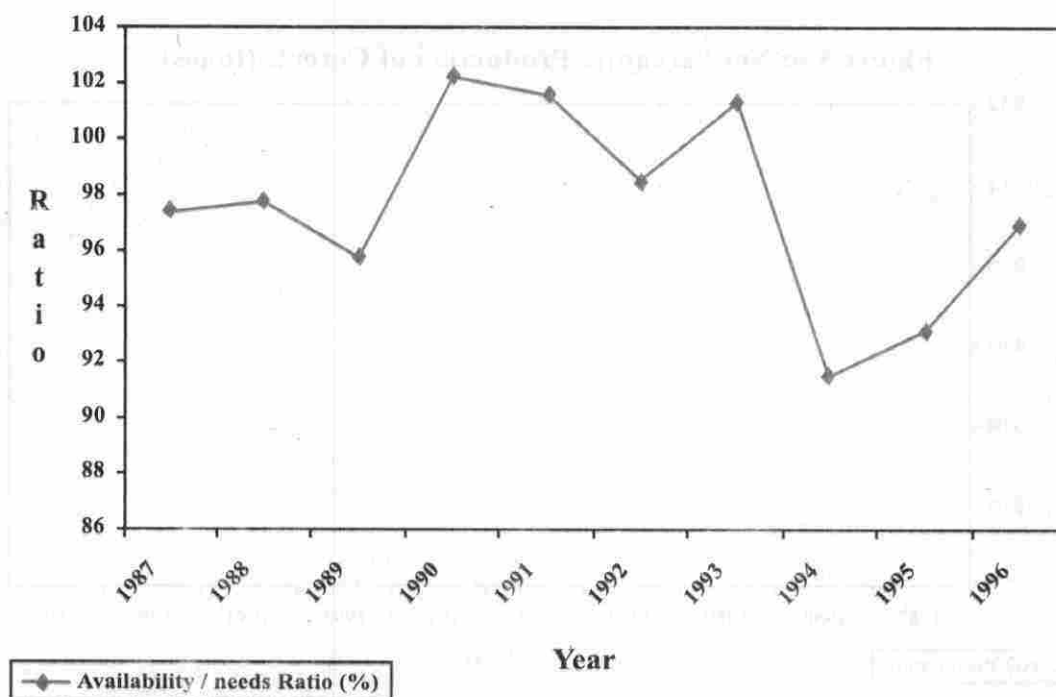
5. 2.2 Land availability and land use

Table 5.8 below shows land availability and land use by division from 1988/89 to 1994/95. A total of 555,754 hectares of arable land is available in The Gambia. However, the table shows that not more than 35 percent of this has been put under cultivation during any cropping season since 1988. This may be explained by the migration of labour from agriculture to other sectors of the economy.

Table 5.8: Land availability and land use by division 1988/89 to 1994/95

Division	Total arable land (ha)	1988/89		1989/90		1990/91		1991/92		1992/93		1993/94		1994/95	
		Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated area (ha)	Percent utilized	Cultivated Area (ha)	Percent utilized
Western	117457	35310	30.06	21260	18.10	23860	20.31	20150	17.16	17250	14.69	17820	15.17	11890	10.12
Lower River	55778	18370	32.93	14360	25.74	14600	26.18	17000	30.48	10390	18.63	14680	26.32	11380	20.40
North Bank	124407	48660	39.11	48890	39.30	55420	44.55	52970	42.58	46930	37.72	51110	41.08	69810	56.11
MID	150924	49970	33.11	52430	34.74	51940	34.41	61460	40.72	45110	29.89	42580	28.21	43700	28.95
Upper River	105754	38040	35.97	38170	36.09	42180	39.89	41380	39.13	38660	36.56	30260	23.61	38910	36.79
The Gambia	555754	190350	34.25	175110	31.51	188000	33.83	192960	34.72	158340	28.49	156450	28.15	175690	31.61

Source: UNDP Development Co-operation 1993 report. Dunsmore. L..R et. Al. (1976)

Figure 5.9: Percentage of Total Arable Land Utilised for Cultivation
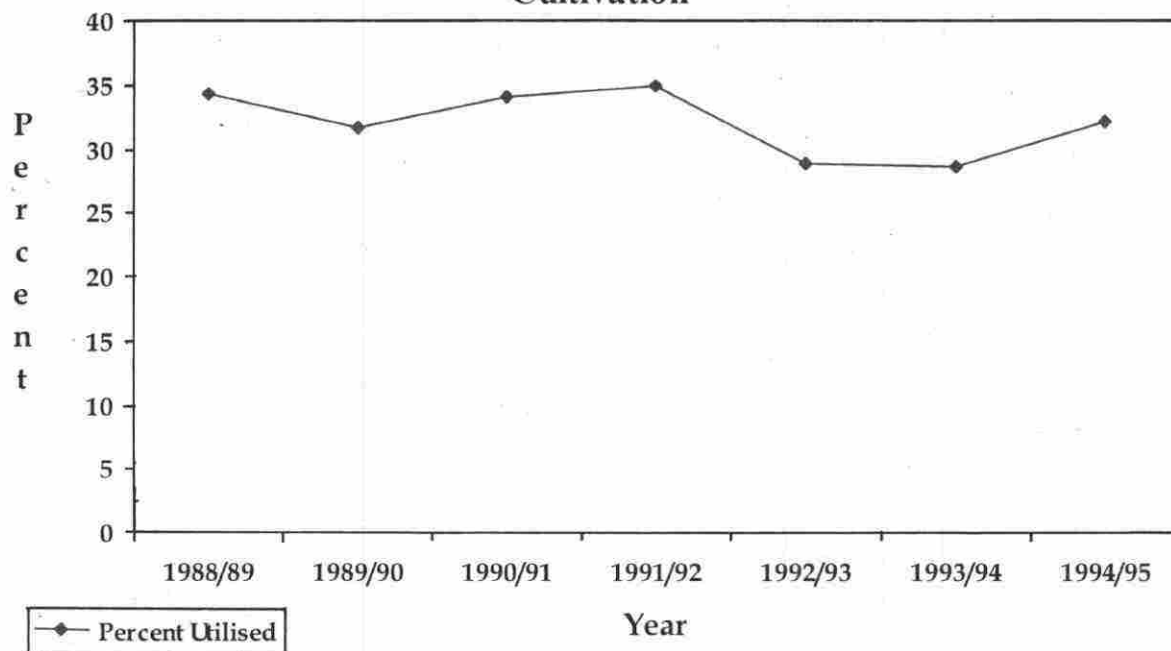
5.23. Rainfall

Agricultural production in general and arable farming in particular largely depends on the amount and distribution of rainfall. Table 5.9 below shows the mean yearly rainfall by Local Government Area. In general, there is not much variation in the pattern of rainfall between LGAs. At the national level, the pattern observed was similar to that of the LGAs with irregular trend which was maximum in 1967 (1290.5mm) and minimum in 1983 (447.86mm).

Table 5.9: Mean annual rainfall by Local Government Area (in millimetres)

Year	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Manasa-konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjan-bureh	Basse	The Gambia
1965	1,241	-	1,261	-	623	-	-	1,261	969
1966	1,280	-	1,513	-	516	-	-	1,513	1,049
1967	1,601	-	1,379	-	1,092	-	-	1,379	1,291
1968	-	-	705	-	-	-	-	705	705
1969	1,232	-	1,234	-	-	-	-	1,234	1,233
1970	848	-	846	-	-	-	-	846	847
1971	1,128	-	770	827	-	-	990	770	929
1972	563	-	582	-	-	-	-	582	631
1973	648	-	877	-	-	-	561	877	755
1974	911	-	955	876	-	585	683	955	810
1975	1,161	-	1,429	960	1,046	941	1,010	1,429	1,103
1976	1,156	-	1,083	815	849	551	581	1,083	831
1977	544	579	566	-	-	783	510	566	615
1978	1,116	1,132	1,163	881	-	952	-	1,163	1,051
1979	867	844	1,115	580	745	758	-	1,115	829
1980	631	625	632	629	706	594	-	632	647
1981	516	667	677	746	684	282	-	677	640
1982	895	944	848	611	743	241	-	848	702
1983	358	426	424	592	454	173	-	424	448
1984	586	682	666	571	644	497	721	666	631
1985	934	833	949	827	627	581	605	949	768
1986	697	678	768	701	599	536	828	768	724
1987	897	844	801	815	928	-	-	801	849
1988	1,031	1,126	1,223	-	1,204	639	901	1,223	1,010
1989	899	897	1,134	856	728	608	800	1,134	859
1990	716	649	824	-	726	590	468	824	644
1991	694	598	545	655	551	386	519	545	569
1992	877	908	1,024	687	797	666	521	1,024	798
1993	602	637	659	747	682	770	670	659	674
1994	926	1,286	982	833	879	836	869	982	957
1995	1,001	-	894	674	791	669	645	894	800
1996	593	-	683	502	727	489	525	683	632
1997	843	723	956	735	663	587	677	956	729
1998	633	588	794	794	809	605	748	794	724
1999	1,084	1,013	1,154	986	1,179	995	1,111	1,154	1,112

Source: Department of Water Resources

Figure 5.10: Mean Annual Rainfall (in Millimetres)
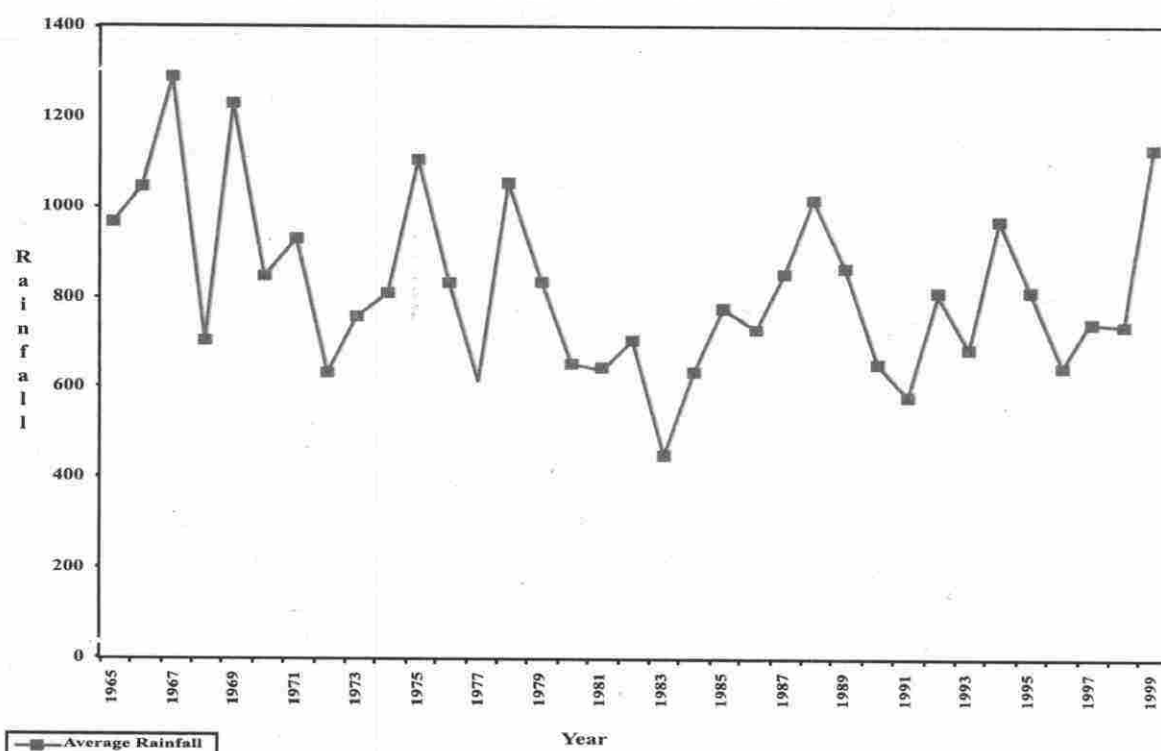
5.2.4 Livestock and fisheries

Table 5.10 below shows the livestock population from 1985/89 to 1997. With the exception of pigs, the population of each type of livestock has been increasing until 1995 and starts declining thereafter.

The population of pigs on the other hand remained constant at 14,000 from 1989/90 to 1995. Similarly, the chicken population that maintained an increasing trend since 1985/86 drastically declined in 1996 but rose again in 1997.

Table 5.10 Livestock population of The Gambia 1985/86 -1997

Type	Number of animals\birds ('000)												
	1985/ 86	1986/ 87	1987/ 88	1988 /89	1989/ 90	1990/ 91	1991/ 92	1992/ 93	1993/ 94	1994 95	1995	1996	1997
Cattle	290	295	305	317	327	327	337	347	358	369	380	322	229
Sheep	175	180	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	216	-	160	125
Goats	194	197	204	207	210	213	216	219	222	225	-	231	204
Pigs	12	12	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	16	-
Chicken	345	380	418	460	506	557	612	673	.740	814	-	284	345

Source: Statistical Abstract of The Gambia, 1992 & 1995

Note: 1985/86 –1994/95 were fiscal years i .e July of one year to June of the preceding year.

Figure 5.11: Livestock Population of The Gambia ('000)
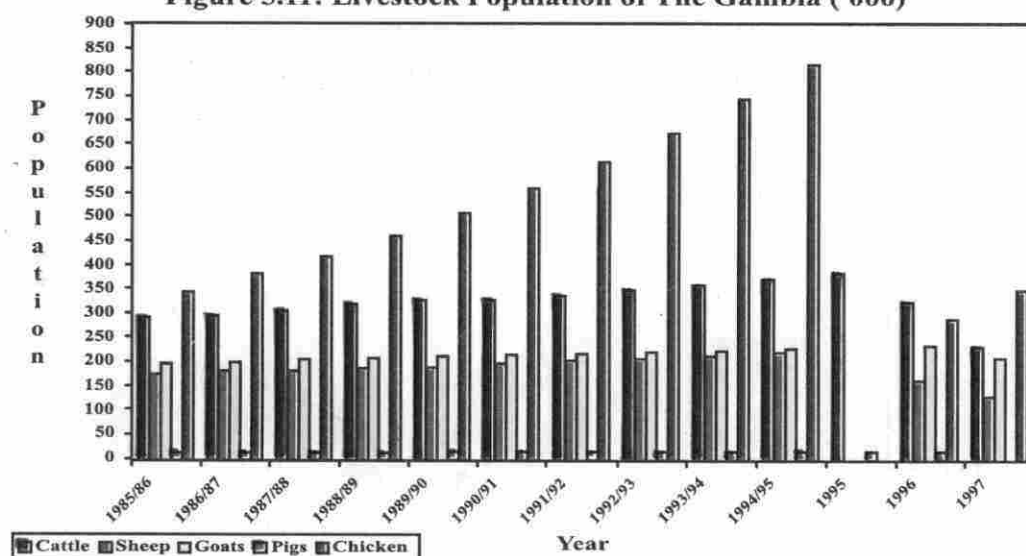
Estimated fish catch 1985/86 – 1998 are summarized in the table5.11 below. It would be noted from the table that until 1995, the scale of industrial fishing was much larger than that of artisanal fishing. Since then however, industrial catch trails far below artisanal catch. Furthermore, the table shows that annual production was fluctuating.

Table 5.11: Estimates of fish catch, 1985/86 - 1998

Year	Fishing type		
	Artisanal	Industrial	Total
1985/86	7,426	23,976	31,402
1986/87	9,906	22,224	32,130
1987/88	5,139	22,414	27,553
1988/89	7,224	11,869	19,093
1989/90	10,941	11,534	22,475
1990/91	24,788	15,922	40,710
1991/92	14,617	17,152	31,769
1992/93	6,898	15,797	22,695
1993/94	7,744	18,738	26,482
1994/95	7,751	20,229	27,980
1995	20,799	6,937	27,736
1996	30,510	8,372	38,882
1997	30,243	7,988	38,231
1998	26,534	7,012	33,546

Source: Statistical Abstract of The Gambia, 1992 & 1995
Note: 1985/86 –1994/95 were fiscal years i. e July of one year to June of the preceding year.

Figure 5.12: Estimates of Fish Catch
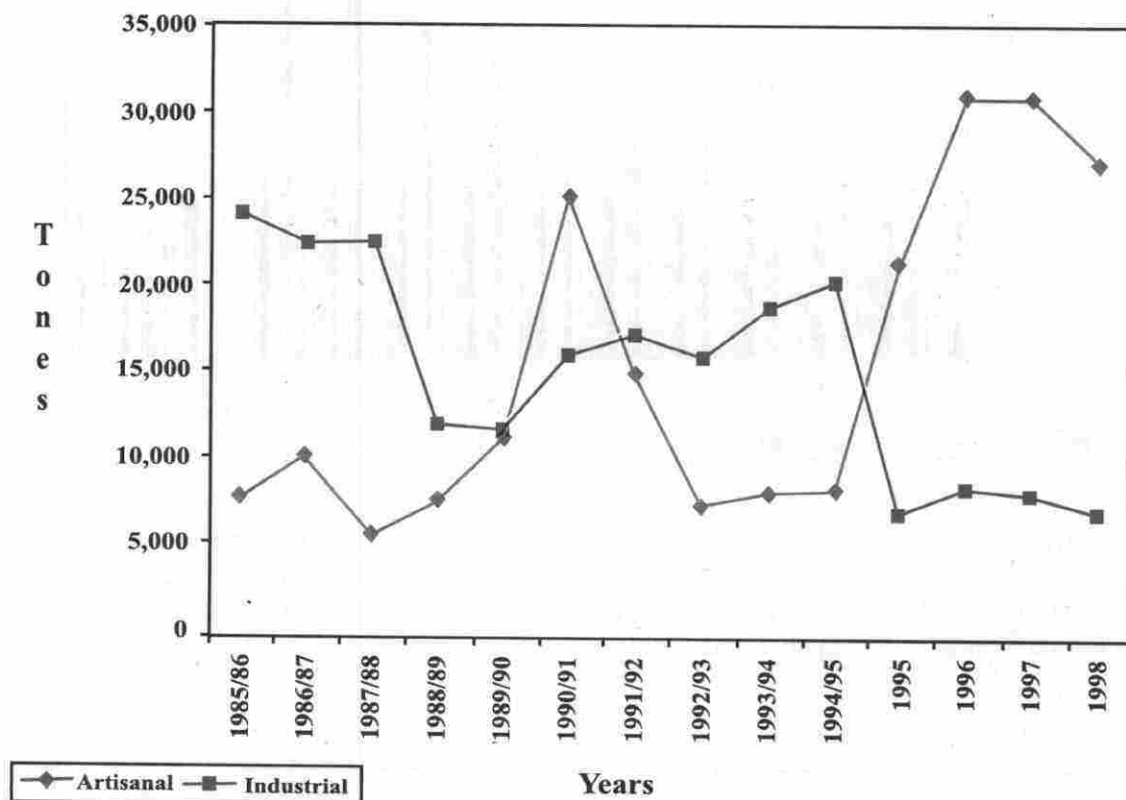
5.3 Economically active population

The population of any country can be broadly divided into two groups viz. working age population and dependent population. The working age population is by convention taken to cover all persons aged 15-64 years while children under 15 and the elderly of age 65 and above constitute the dependent population.

The working age population comprises, the economically active and economically inactive population. The economically active population, also known as the labour force is made up of the employed and unemployed persons. Because of the high prevalence of child labour and substantial amount of old age labour particularly amongst the self employed, the 1993 Population and Housing Census has broadened the working age population and hence the economically active population to cover 10 years and above. By the above definition, working age population and economically active population takes up 68.02 and 33.27 percent of the total population in 1993. The wide disparity between the two could partly be explained by the fact that significant numbers of people within the working age are students in the school going age.

Table: 5.12 : Economically active populaion; 1983 and 1993 compared

Activity characteristics	Year		% Change
	1983	1993	
Total economically active	325,618	345,381	**6.07**
Males	174,856	207,310	**18.50**
Females	150,762	138,071	**-8.42**
Total employed	298,853	332,104	**11.13**
Males	156,903	198,824	**26.72**
Females	141,950	133,280	**-6.11**
Total unemployed	26,765	13,277	**-50.40**
Males	17,953	8,486	**52.73**
Females	8,812	4,791	**-45.63**
% Economically active employed	91.78	96.16	**4.38**
Males	89.73	95.91	**6.18**
Females	94.16	96.53	**2.37**

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Table: 5.13 : Percentage distribution of the economically active population by five years age-group, area and sex

Age group	% Economically active in The Gambia			% Economically active in urban			% Economically active in rural		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
10-14	4.51	7.77	5.82	1.30	5.41	2.50	6.81	8.60	7.63
15-19	7.93	13.09	9.99	6.36	13.70	8.50	9.05	12.88	10.80
20-24	13.18	14.08	13.54	15.72	17.05	16.10	11.36	13.05	12.14
25-29	15.64	16.11	15.83	18.77	16.88	18.22	13.41	15.84	14.3
30-34	12.71	13.05	12.84	14.80	13.34	14.38	11.21	12.95	12.01
35-39	10.62	9.82	10.30	12.20	10.62	11.74	9.5	9.55	952
40-44	9.05	8.43	8.80	9.44	7.70	8.93	8.78	8.68	8.73
45-49	7.11	4.98	6.26	7.25	4.97	6.58	7.02	4.98	6.08
50-54	6.02	4.62	5.46	5.14	3.79	4.75	6.65	4.91	5.85
55-59	3.73	2.11	3.08	3.11	1.93	2.76	4.18	2.17	3.26
60-64	3.83	2.67	3.37	2.56	1.96	2.39	4.74	2.91	3.90
65+	5.66	3.27	4.71	3.37	2.65	3.16	7.30	3.49	5.55
% of Total	**60.02**	**39.98**	**100.0**	**70.83**	**29.17**	**100.00**	**54.12**	**45.88**	**100.00**

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

5.4 Labour force participation rate: 1993

"Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the population that are economically active comprising of employed and unemployed individuals as per reference period"(Population and Housing Census, 1993). Table 5.14 below shows that participation rate rises gradually from lower ages and reaches a peak of 74.42 percent at age group 45-49 years. For new entrants into the labour market i.e age groups 10-14 and 15-19, participation rate is higher for females than males. One explanation for this is that greater proportion of females than males in these age groups were not attending schools and worked mostly as unpaid family workers. The participation rate for females reached a peak of 56.6% at age group 40-44 while that of males was maximum at age group 45-49 (88.85 %).

Table 5.14 :   Labour force participation rates by five year age group and sex: 1993

Age group	Labour force participation rates		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
10-14	15.21	17.55	16.38
15-19	31.30	32.26	31.79
20-24	61.06	41.70	51.18
25-29	79.25	47.21	62.10
30-34	86.33	51.84	67.97
35-39	88.37	55.29	71.97
40-44	88.75	56.61	72.90
45-49	88.85	55.25	74.42
50-54	87.77	53.70	72.02
55-59	85.54	50.30	71.79
60-64	81.47	43.81	64.04
65+	67.11	28.21	48.52
The Gambia	**60.37**	**39.98**	**50.15**

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Table: 5.15 Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by five year age group, area of residence and sex: 1993

Age group	Total unemployed persons			Unemployed persons in Urban			Unemployed persons in Rural		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
10-14	3.51	7.45	4.93	3.10	6.11	4.16	4.20	9.48	6.17
15-19	11.74	17.39	13.78	11.49	18.22	13.86	12.15	16.13	13.64
20-24	29.12	26.93	28.33	31.80	30.64	31.39	24.68	21.32	23.42
25-29	20.47	16.76	19.13	21.41	18.18	20.27	18.92	14.61	17.31
30-34	10.09	9.06	9.72	10.54	8.95	9.98	9.33	9.22	9.29
35-39	6.40	6.03	6.27	6.37	5.52	6.07	6.45	6.81	6.59
40-44	4.78	4.49	4.68	4.21	3.78	4.06	5.73	5.55	5.66
45-49	3.56	2.69	3.25	3.12	2.43	2.87	4.29	3.09	3.84
50-54	2.44	2.46	2.45	2.00	1.80	1.93	3.16	3.46	3.27
55-59	1.97	1.36	1.75	1.66	1.15	1.48	2.47	1.68	2.18
60-64	2.12	1.96	2.06	1.55	0.94	1.33	3.07	3.51	3.23
65+	3.81	3.42	3.67	2.76	2.29	2.59	5.54	5.13	5.39

Source: Central Statistics Depatment, Banjul

Chapter VI

Living conditions and poverty

6.1 Housing characteristics

In this section, we shall highlight the conditions prevailing within households with respect to housing amenities. This is so because the availability of, and access to better amenities generally indicates family welfare.

6.1.1 Tenure of accommodation

Tenure of accommodation, particularly in urbanised populations may reveal the state of social stability. A high rate of owner-occupied dwellings in a population indicates high investment in housing at the micro (household) level. On the other hand, a high proportion of households in a population accommodated on rent may be an indication of high social insecurity.

Table 6.1: Percentage distribution of heads of households by tenure of accommodation in census years

Year	Tenure of accommodation				
	Owner	Rent	Rent free	Other	Not stated
1963	-	-	-	-	-
1973	-	-	-	-	-
1983	63.9	21.9	7.9	0.1	61.0
1993	61.3	27.4	8.5	0.3	2.5

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Though, most households were accommodated on owner-occupied dwellings, table6.1 shows that the proportion declines during the intercensal decade of 1983-93 and that significant number of households were living on rent dwellings.

Table 6.2: Percentage distribution of heads households by tenure of accommodation and residence, 1993

Residence	Tenure of accommodation				
	Owner	Rent	Rent free	Other	Not stated
Urban	34.9	52.0	10.5	0.3	2.4
Rural	84.3	5.9	6.8	0.4	2.6

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 6.1: Percentage distribution of Heads of Households by Tenure of Accomodation and Residence
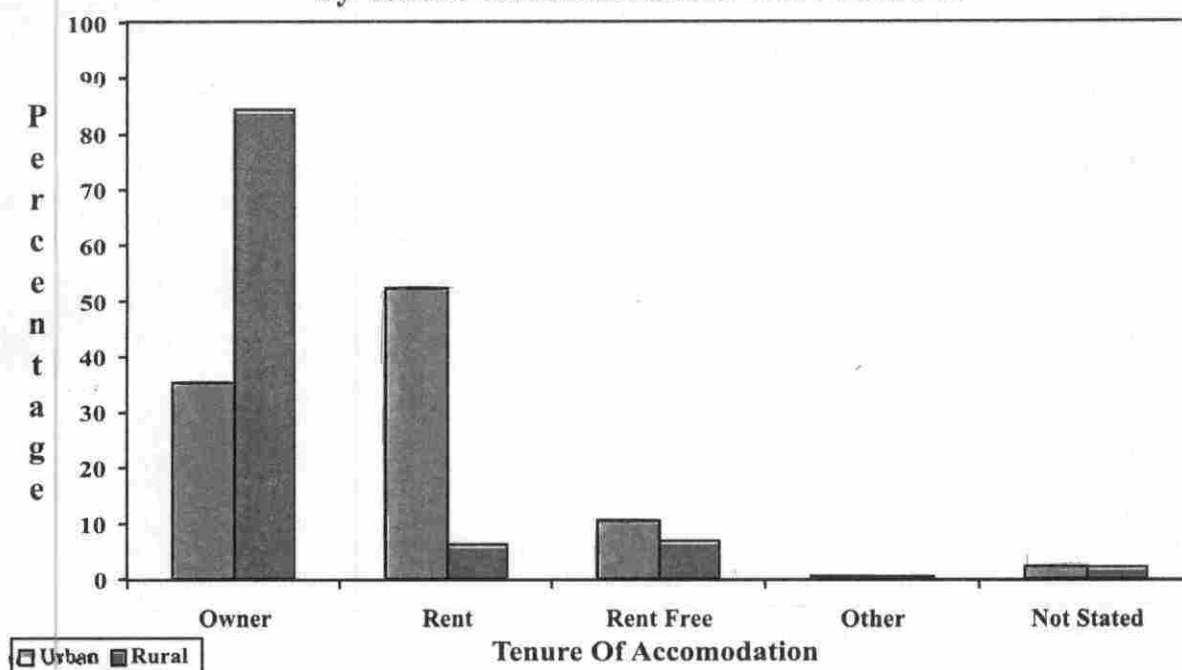
The urban-rural variations in tenure of accommodation in 1993 are presented in table 6.2 above. The table shows that while more than half of the households in urban areas were renting accommodation, only 5.9 percent of rural households did the same. On the other hand, tenure of owner-occupied dwellings was dominant amongst rural households (84.3%).

6.1.2 Main source of light

Another important indicator of living conditions in households is the source of light used by families. The availability of and access to electricity by a household is an indication of improvements in its social conditions.

In The Gambia, use of electricity as a source of light by households has been low at 16.9 percent in 1983, which rose to 22.3 percent in 1993 with wide urban-rural differentials observed. For example, while 44.9 percent of urban households in 1993 used electricity as their main source of light, the corresponding figure for rural households was 2.7. In fact, use of electricity was high among households in Banjul and Kanifing Local Government Areas, which are totally urban. Among rural households, candles ranked as the most important source of light.

Table 6.3 : Percentage distribution of households by main source of light and Local Government Area, 1983

Local Government Area	Main source of light					
	Electricity	Kerosene lamp with shade	Other kerosene lamp	Candle	Other	Not stated
Banjul	59.6	2.4	0.2	28.0	0.0	9.7
Kanifing	36.4	16.0	1.9	36.0	0.1	8.9
Brikama	4.8	55.0	17.2	19.3	0.8	2.9
Mansakonko	8.1	15.6	14.9	56.3	1.4	3.7
Kerewan	4.5	32.6	26.0	25.3	1.0	10.5
Kuntaur	0.8	20.7	40.8	28.7	5.3	3.6
Janjanbureh	6.6	10.3	28.1	46.1	4.3	4.7
Basse	6.6	17.5	35.5	31.1	3.8	5.5
The Gambia	16.9	24.8	18.3	31.9	1.6	6.5

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

Figure 6.2: Percentage of Households with Access to Electricity as Main source of ligth by LGA
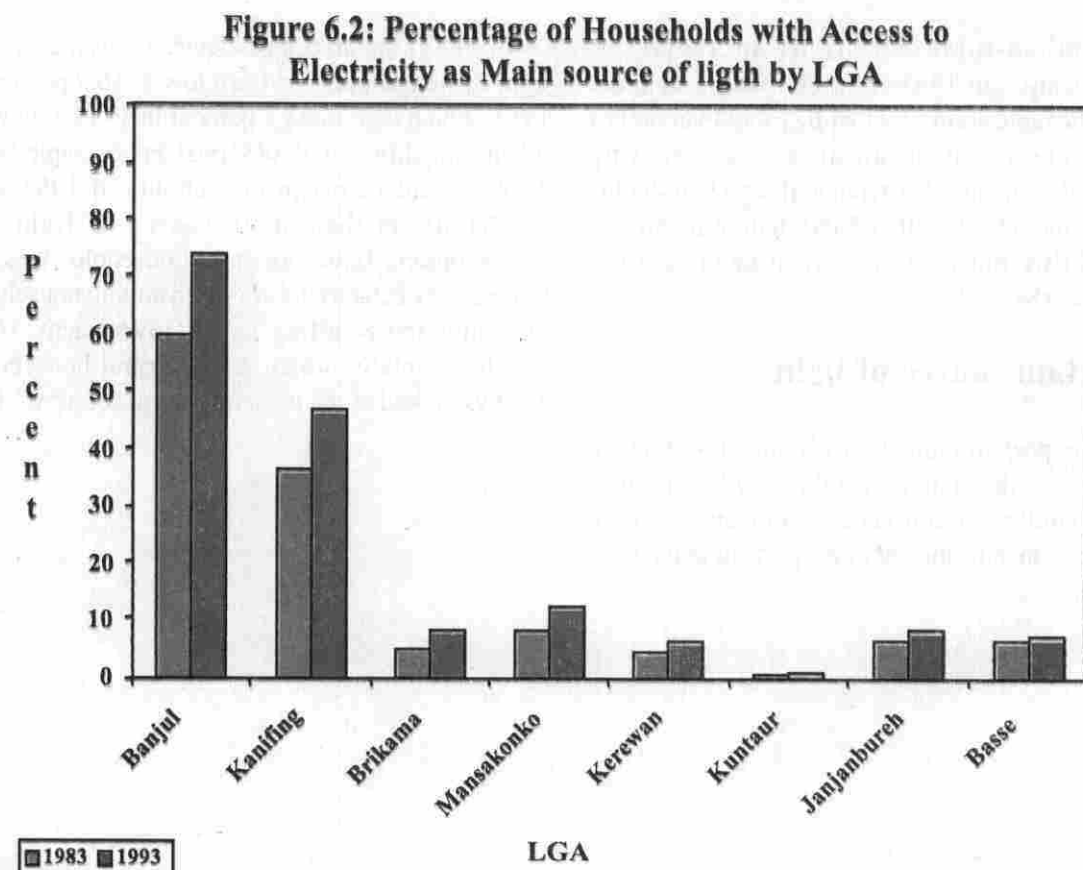
Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of households by main source of light and Local Government Area, 1993

Local Government Area	Main source of light					
	Electricity	Kerosene lamp with shade	Other kerosene lamp	Candle	Other	Not stated
Banjul	73.7	1.8	0.8	22.8	0.0	0.9
Kanifing	47.0	10.7	3.2	36.2	0.2	2.7
Brikama	8.2	50.8	11.1	26.7	0.4	2.7
Mansakonko	12.4	22.7	25.7	37.0	0.6	1.5
Kerewan	6.4	42.6	23.8	23.4	0.9	2.9
Kuntaur	1.1	20.4	34.7	38.5	2.6	2.7
Janjanbureh	8.8	15.2	24.4	45.5	2.4	3.8
Basse	7.9	19.2	24.7	40.0	2.4	5.7
Urban Gambia	44.9	12.4	3.8	36.1	0.2	2.7
Rural Gambia	2.7	38.3	24.6	29.8	1.5	3.1
Total Gambia	22.3	26.2	14.9	32.7	0.9	2.9

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

6.1.3 Main cooking fuel

As earlier mentioned, one consequence of a rapid growing population is the increase pressure on land for both agricultural and non-agricultural purposes. In The Gambia, the periodic droughts that the country has been experiencing since the 1970s have been attributed to a large extent on the rapid depletion of the forest cover. Most of these woods are consumed as cooking fuel and to redress the situation government has initiated various programmes which includes a ban on the production and sale of charcoal and the promotion of alternative sources of energy (gas, briquette and solar power) for cooking.

Inspite of these, cooking fuel in The Gambia continues to be centered on wood as households substitute firewood for charcoal. Both the 1983 and 1993 censuses have identified firewood as the single most important source of cooking fuel among households while the use of alternative sources were insignificant.

Table 6.5 : Percentage distribution of households by type of cooking fuel and Local Government Area, 1983

Local Government Area	Main source of cooking fuel							
	Fire Wood	Kerosene	Briquette	Char-coal	Gas	Electricity	Other	Not stated
Banjul	88	-	-	-	2	-	-	8
Kanifing	88	-	-	-	4	-	1	6
Brikama	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mansakonko	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kerewan	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kuntaur	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Janjanbureh	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Basse	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
The Gambia	95	-	-	-	1	-	-	3

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul
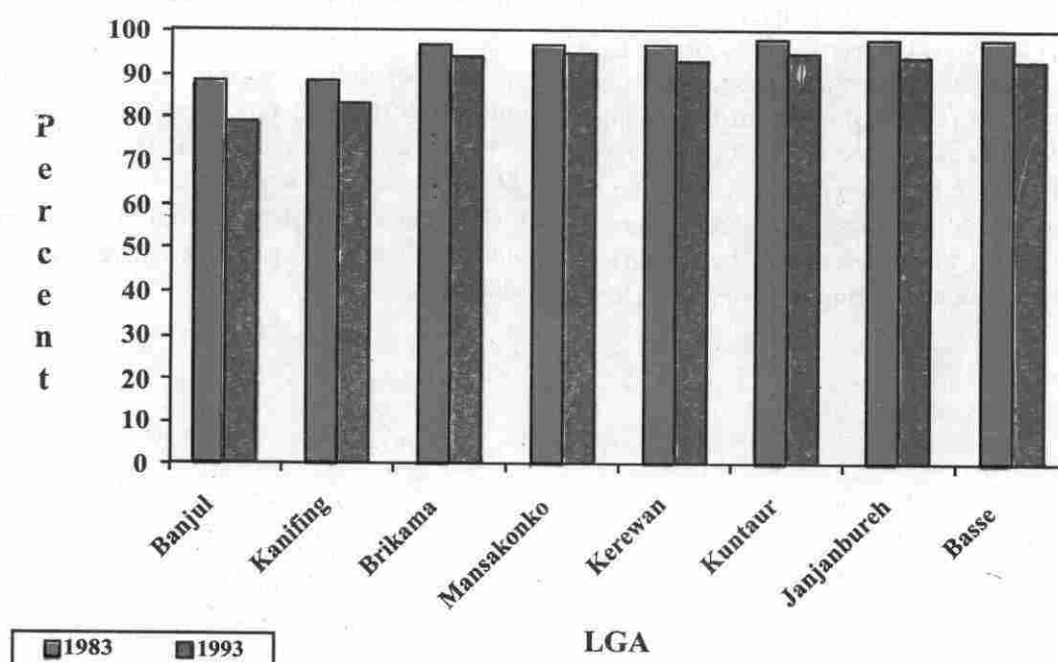
Figure 6.3: Percentage of Households using Firewood as source of Cooking Fuel by LGA

1983   1993   LGA

Table 6.6 : Percentage distribution of households by type of cooking fuel and Local Government Area, 1993

Local Government Area	Main source of cooking fuel							
	Fire Wood	Kerosene	Briquette	Charcoal	Gas	Electricity	Other	Not Stated
Banjul	79	1	-	1	6	-	9	4
Kanifing	83	1	-	-	7	-	3	5
Brikama	94	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Mansakonko	95	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Kerewan	93	1	-	-	1	-	1	4
Kuntaur	95	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Janjanbureh	94	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Basse	93	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
The Gambia	90	-	-	-	3	-	2	4

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul

6.1.4 Source of water

It has generally been acknowledged that numerous health hazards are associated with our traditional sources of water i.e. open wells and rivers\streams. Over the past two decades, various water projects have been undertaken by government and non-governmental organisations; all aimed at making safe drinking water available and accessible to gambian households. With increase use of safe sources of water supply, the incidence of diarrhea and water-borne diseases within the population particularly among children would be drastically reduced. Furthermore, it would significantly cut the amount of time spent by the women folk in search for water.

According to the Department of Water Resources, Safe Water Supply Facilities (SWSFs) include covered wells (including tube wells) and reticulation systems. Applying this definition to our main sources of water would exclude open wells without pumps and streams \ rivers from SWSFs. In other words, only piped water and water from wells fitted with pumps are safe. Consequently, the proportion of households that access the SWSFs rose from 23.1 percent in 1983 to 50.4 percent in 1993 with urban-rural of 63.7 percent (urban) and 38.8 percent (rural) in 1993.

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution of households by main source of water and Local Government Area, 1983

Local Government Area	Stand pipe in compound	Public stand-pipe	Well in compound	Public well with pump	Public well without pump	Stream or river	Other	Not stated
				Main source of water				
Banjul	38.4	51.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	10.1
Kanifing	23.6	20.4	36.8	0.6	6.3	0.0	2.8	9.5
Brikama	2.2	6.4	42.1	1.2	40.9	0.1	3.4	3.7
Mansakonko	2.6	0.9	13.4	1.8	77.3	0.0	0.2	3.8
Kerewan	1.2	5.6	13.0	1.3	67.1	0.0	1.0	10.8
Kuntaur	0.0	0.0	8.9	0.4	79.7	7.2	0.2	3.5
Janjanbureh	2.1	3.7	8.2	0.8	75.5	3.6	1.5	4.6
Basse	2.9	3.6	15.1	2.3	68.5	0.9	1.8	5.0
The Gambia	9.9	12.1	21.7	1.1	45.8	1.0	1.7	6.8

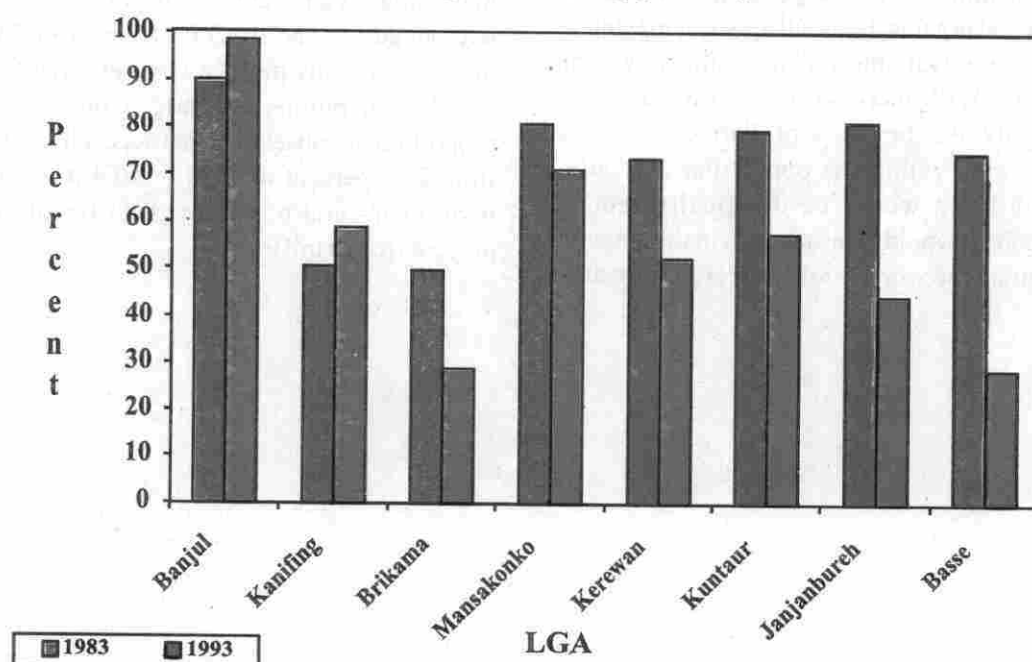**Source:** Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

Figure 6.4: Percentage of Households with Access to Safe Drinking WaterSupplies by LGA

Table 6.8: Percentage distribution of households by main source of water and Local Government Area, 1993

Local Government Area	Main source of water							
	Stand pipe in compound	Public stand-pipe	Well in compound	Public well with pump	Public well without pump	Strea m or river	Other	Not stated
Banjul	50.4	48.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8
Kanifing	37.4	18.4	30.4	2.6	2.9	0.0	5.8	2.5
Brikama	4.0	12.2	42.7	12.6	17.5	0.0	8.8	2.1
Mansakonko	3.5	24.1	7.8	43.5	18.9	0.0	1.0	1.2
Kerewan	4.6	20.5	10.3	27.3	33.1	0.0	1.6	2.6
Kuntaur	1.0	5.0	5.7	51.6	31.1	0.7	2.0	2.9
Janjanburch	4.8	9.8	8.3	29.8	41.0	0.3	2.5	3.4
Basse	2.7	14.0	17.1	12.3	46.3	0.4	1.6	5.6
Urban Gambia	32.0	29.3	26.1	2.4	3.2	0.0	4.5	2.5
Rural Gambia	1.5	7.6	19.0	29.7	35.0	0.2	4.2	2.8
The Gambia	15.7	17.7	22.3	17.0	20.2	0.1	4.3	2.6

Source: Central Statistics Department, Banjul.

6.1.5 Toilet facilities

The proper disposal of wastes is important for better sanitary and environmental conditions of the population. In a developing population like The Gambia where the appropriate sewage and drainage infrastructures are limited, use of modern toilet facilities among households is low.
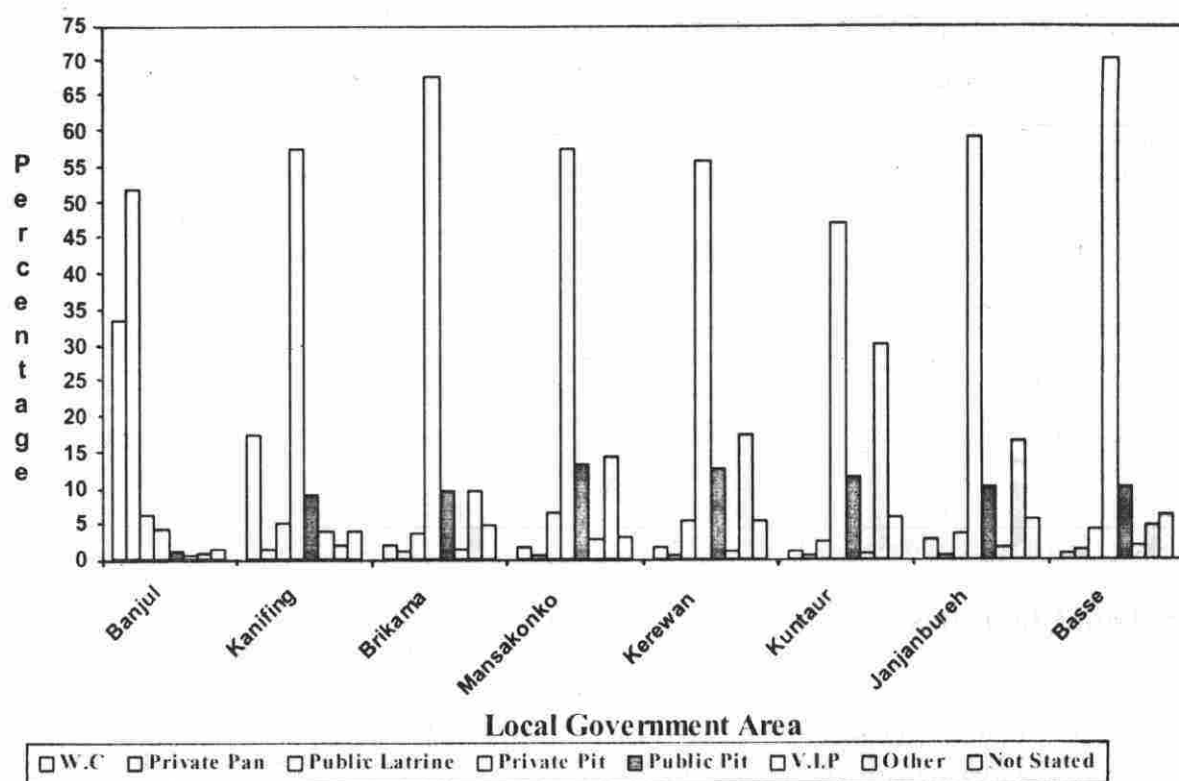
The 1993 census has revealed that only 7.9 percent of Gambian households use the water closet (WC) toilets. In fact, the use of this facility was significant in Banjul (33.6%) and Kanifing (17.4%) where there exists some drainage and sewage infrastructure. In general, private pit was the most popular toilet facility among households except in Banjul where private pan ranks first.

Table 6.9 : Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility and Local Government Area, 1993

Local Government Area	Type of toilet facility							
	W.C	Private pan	Public latrine	Private pit	Public pit	V.I.P	Other	Not stated
Banjul	33.6	51.8	6.2	4.1	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.3
Kanifing	17.4	1.3	5.0	57.6	8.9	3.9	2.1	3.9
Brikama	2.0	1.0	3.7	67.7	9.7	1.5	9.5	4.8
Mansakonko	1.7	0.7	6.6	57.5	13.3	2.9	14.3	3.0
Kerewan	1.6	0.7	5.4	55.8	12.6	1.2	17.5	5.3
Kuntaur	1.1	0.5	2.5	47.2	11.6	0.8	30.2	6.0
Janjanbureh	2.7	0.6	3.7	59.2	10.2	1.6	16.5	5.5
Basse	0.9	1.3	4.2	70.3	10.2	1.9	4.9	6.3
Urban Gambia	15.8	7.8	5.1	53.2	9.3	2.6	2.6	3.7
Rural Gambia	1.1	0.8	4.2	60.5	10.3	1.7	16.0	5.3
The Gambia	7.9	4.1	4.6	57.1	9.8	2.1	9.8	4.6

Source: Central Statistics Department. Banjul.

Figure 6.5: Percentage of Households by main type of toilet facility used by LGA

Local Government Area

☐ W.C   ☐ Private Pan   ☐ Public Latrine   ☐ Private Pit   ▨ Public Pit   ☐ V.I.P   ☐ Other   ☐ Not Stated

6.2 Education and literacy

The official entry age into the formal school system is 7 years in The Gambia. However, it is not unusual to find children who are under-aged or over-aged been accepted for entry into the primary school system. The primary school cycle spans for six years whilst junior secondary and senior secondary school cycles each spans for three years.

6.2.1 Gross enrolment and net enrolment ratios

Formally, the population in the 7-13 years age bracket is within the primary school going age. Two indices used to measure the enrolment of children in the primary school system are the gross enrolment ratio (GER) and the net enrolment ratio (NER). Gross enrolment is defined as the ratio of total enrolment in primary school system irrespective of age, to the official primary school age population expressed as a percentage in a given school year. Net enrolment ratio on the other hand, is the ratio of the total enrolment within the official age, to the official primary school age population expressed as a percentage in a given school year.

i.e.

GER	Total enrolment in primary schools (irrespective of age) x 100
	Official primary school population

| NER	Total enrolment in primary schools (within official age) x 100
	Official primary school population

GER less NET measure the extent of under-aged and over-aged enrolment.

Table 6.10: Gross enrolment ratios by sex, 1991/92 – 1998/99

Sex	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Male	70.0	71.1	73.2	74.6	77.3	78.5	78.8	77.8
Female	47.9	50.3	53.0	55.3	59.7	62.2	64.3	65.6
Both sexes	59.0	60.7	63.1	65.0	68.5	70.0	71.6	71.7

Source: Education for All (EFA; 2000) Assessment Report – The Gambia
Note: Information prior to 1991/92 is not available

Figure 6.6: Gross Enrolment Ratio by Sex
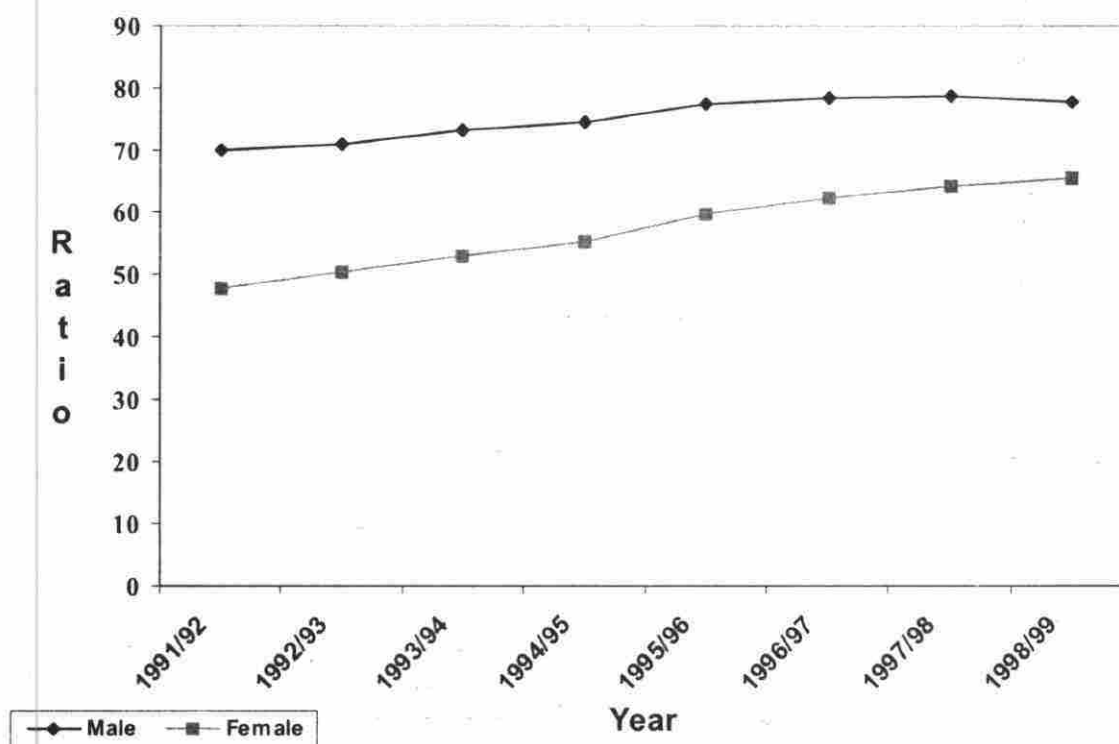
Table 6.11: Net enrolment ratios by sex, 1991/92 – 1998/99

Sex	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Male	54.2	57.6	57.7	60.6	64.2	63.1	64.3	64.2
Female	38.5	41.8	42.9	45.9	50.9	51.2	54.0	55.4
Both sexes	46.3	49.6	50.3	53.2	57.5	57.1	59.1	59.8

Source: EFA 2000 Assessment Report – The Gambia
Note: Information prior to 1991/92 is not available

Figure 6.7: Net Enrolment Ratio by Sex
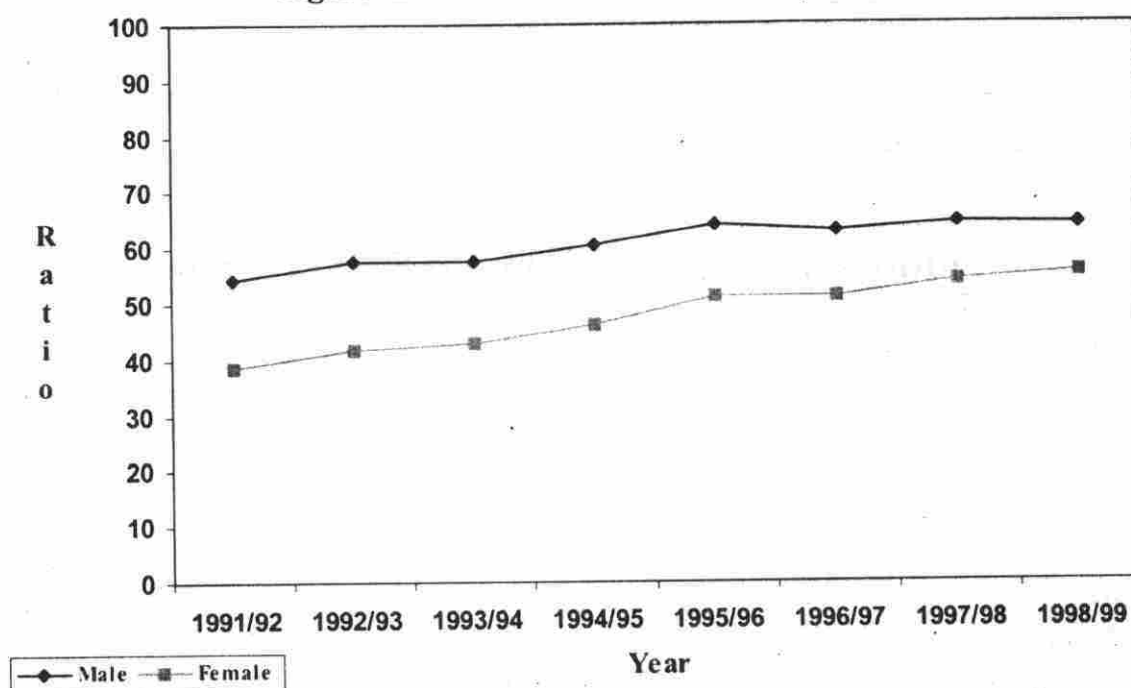
Enrolment (both gross and net) was high among males than females for all years as expected. This was because of the preference families give to the education of their male sons over their daughters.

Close look at the two tables above would show significant differences between the GERs and NERs implying that the extent of under-aged and over-aged enrolment was great at the primary level.

Table 6.12: Gross enrolment and net enrolment ratios by sex and region, 1998/99

Region	Gross enrolment ratio			Net enrolment ratio		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	72.7	61.9	66.9	62.2	53.1	57.3
2	95.3	82.2	88.8	78.2	69.0	73.6
3	71.9	51.7	61.8	57.4	42.5	49.9
4	97.3	80.4	89.1	77.7	67.9	72.9
5	72.8	62.4	67.7	58.9	52.3	55.6
6	58.3	44.6	51.6	49.2	38.3	43.9
The Gambia	77.8	65.6	71.7	64.2	55.4	59.8

Source; EFA 2000 Assessment Report-The Gambia

Note: Regions correspond to Local Government Areas as follows:
1   Banjul and Kanifing
2   Brikama
3   Kerewan
4   Mansakonko
5   Kuntaur and Janjanbureh
6   Basse

Enrolment across regions for the 1998/99 academic year is presented in table 6.12 above. In all regions, male children are highly enrolled in the primary school system than their female counterparts though in some regions enrolment of girls is remarkably high.

6.2.2: Apparent gross intake and net intake rates

The apparent intake rate (AIR) is the ratio of the total new entrants into the first grade of primary education, to the primary school entrance age population expressed as a percentage in a given school year.

i.e.

$$AIR = \frac{\text{Total new entrants to grade one} \times 100}{\text{Primary school entrance age population}}$$

Though, a crude measure, the AIR indicates the capacity of the education system to provide access to grade one.

The net intake rate (NIR) which is a more refined measure is the ratio of new entrants into the first grade of primary education who are of the official age, to the primary school entrance age population expressed as a percentage.

ie.

$$NIR = \frac{\text{Total new entrants (who are of the official age)} \times 100}{\text{Primary school entrance age population}}$$

AIR less NIR gives the extent of under-aged and over-aged intake

Table 6.13: Apparent (gross) intake rate by sex, 1991/92 – 1998/99

Sex	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Male	71.0	80.4	84.9	80.6	92.0	85.9	79.5	78.7
Female	52.4	58.0	63.5	64.1	75.5	74.5	70.8	73.8
Both sexes	61.7	69.2	74.2	72.3	83.8	80.2	75.1	76.3

Source: EFA 2000 Assessment Report – The Gambia
Note: Information prior to 1991/92 is not available
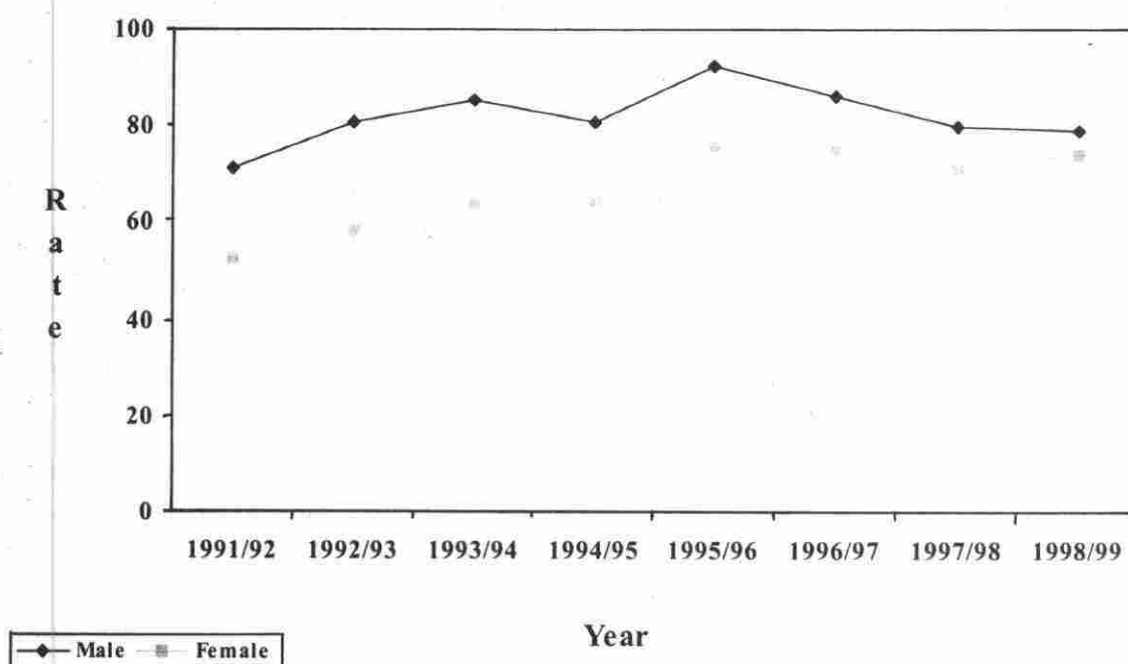
Figure 6.8: Apparent (Gross) Intake Rate by Sex

Male — Female

Table 6.14: Net intake rate by sex, 1991/92 – 1998/99

Sex	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Male	34.1	40.5	42.0	40.7	48.4	44.5	37.3	37.8
Female	26.8	30.5	31.3	32.9	41.3	38.8	33.7	36.6
Both Sexes	30.5	35.5	36.7	36.8	44.8	41.6	35.5	37.2

Source: EFA 2000 Assessment Report – The Gambia
Note: Information prior to 1991/92 is not available

Figure 6.9: Net Intake Rate by Sex
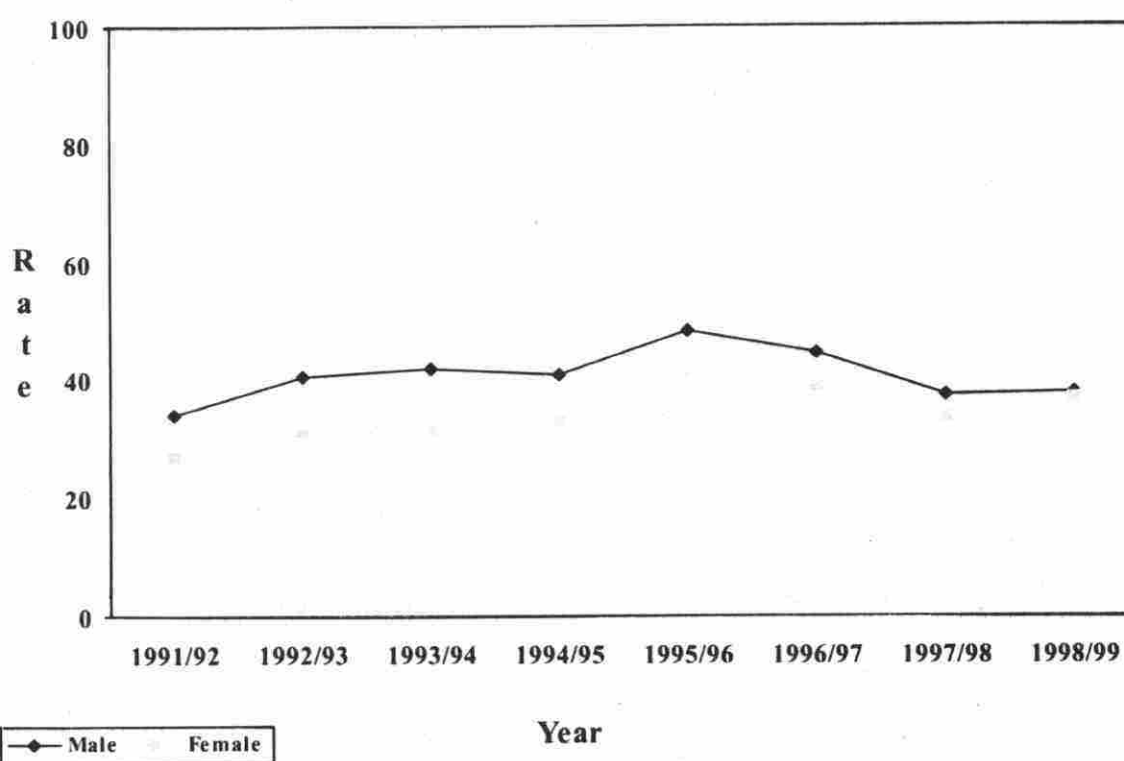
The extent of under-aged and over-aged intake into the first grade of primary education was significant throughout as observed differences between AIR and NIR shows.

6.2.3 Pupil\teacher ratio

The relationship between the pupil population and the number of teachers in primary schools is measured by the pupil \ teacher ratio. Defined as the average number of pupils per teacher in a given school year, the pupil \ teacher ratio is an indication of the human resources input in the primary schools. A too high pupil \ teacher ratio explains that the attention each pupil receives from the teacher is inadequate and hence, the need to engage more teachers. On the other hand, a too low pupil \ teacher ratio implies overstaffing in primary schools which calls for appropriate policy actions to redress the situation.

For the period under review (1991\92 – 1998\99), the pupil \ teacher ratio has been fairly stable, fluctuating between 30 and 34.

Table 6.15: Pupil \ teacher ratio, 1991/92 – 1998/99

Year	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Pupil \ teacher ratio	31.5	30.5	33.4	33.7	30.2	30.4	32.8	33.3

Source: EFA 2000 Assessment Report – The Gambia
Note: Information by LGA prior to 1991/92 is not available

Figure 6.10: Pupil \ Teacher Ratio
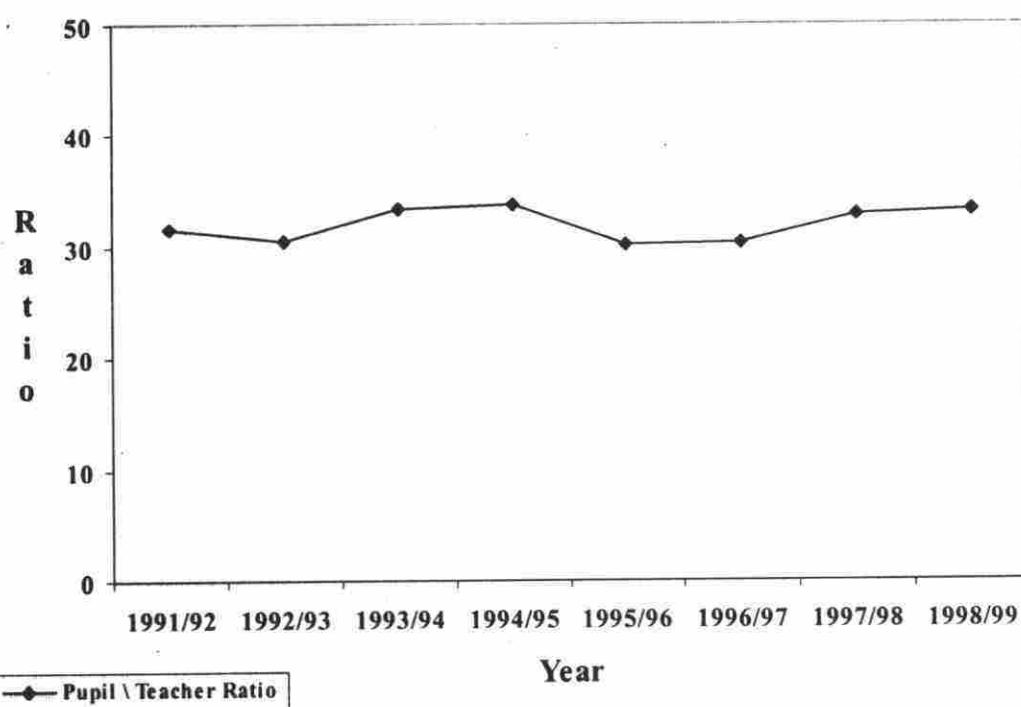
Table 6.16 : Pupil/Teacher Ratio by Region, 1998/99

Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	The Gambia
Pupil/teacher ratio	35.4	35.1	30.1	26.7	32.3	34.9	33.3

Source: EFA 2000 Assessment Report-The Gambia

6.2.4 Literacy

The most recent and reliable source of information on literacy is volume 8 of the 1993 Population and Housing Census where literate is defined as the ability to read and write in any language. Given the above definition, the census data reveals that 40.9 percent of the population aged 10 years and above were literate in 1993. Further analysis shows that 55.0 percent of male aged 10 years and above were literate as opposed to 26.9 percent for females. Thus, the low literacy among females was the result of low enrolment of girls in the formal school system.

6.3 Poverty status

In this section, we examine the state of poverty in The Gambia according to analysis done in the 1998 National Household Poverty Survey Report. It is important to underscore that the coverage of this study was nationally representative and the data collected and analysis done are assumed to be accurate and reliable.

6.3.1 Poverty lines

A line drawn at a particular level of income or a particular level of consumption such that those households whose consumption falls below it are considered as poor. The construction of poverty line and hence the measurement of poverty can be done using either of two approaches namely, relative and absolute. With relative poverty, a household is considered as poor relative to others in the same economy whereas with absolute poverty, a household is considered as poor if its level of income or consumption is below the minimum required to sustain it at the basic needs level. The 1998 poverty study uses the absolute approach in demarcating the poverty line and measuring poverty.

To determine the severity of poverty across households, the study established two poverty lines i.e. the food poverty line and the overall poverty line. Households whose consumption fell below the food poverty line were considered as extremely poor whilst those whose consumption lies above the food poverty line but below the overall poverty line were considered as poor. The advantage of this approach is that it gives an indication on the level of food security within the economy. In establishing the poverty lines, the study takes account of the urban/rural differentials in consumption. Accordingly therefore, the poverty lines were set based on the value of consumption for an Adult Equivalent Unit (AEU) per annum as below.

Table 6.17: Value of poverty lines (in dalasis) established in the 1998 Poverty Study

Poverty line	Residence		
	Greater Banjul	Other urban areas	Rural areas
Food poverty line	2963.7	2610.2	2576.0
Overall poverty line	5538.78	3898.15	3087.55

Source: 1998 National Household Poverty Survey Report

Figure 6.11: Value of Poverty lines (in Dalasi) established in the 1998 Poverty Study
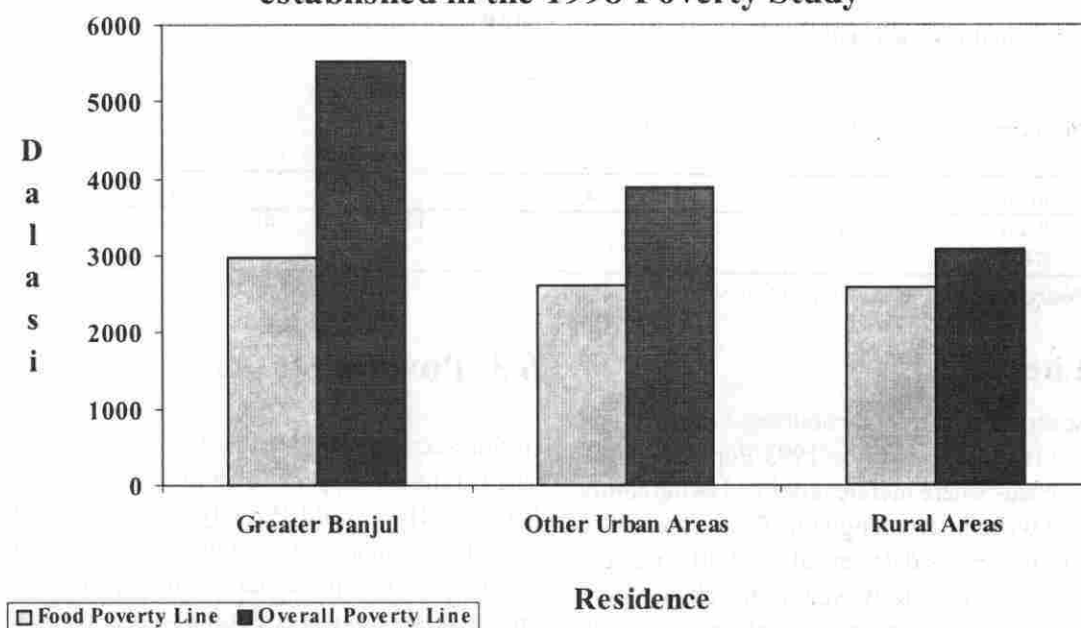
6.3.2 The incidence of poverty

Table 6.18 below shows the distribution of households and persons by poverty category, mean permanent income and residence. According to the study, 55 percent of households and 69 percent of the population in The Gambia live below the overall poverty line (extremely poor and poor combined). Significant variations exist between rural and urban areas with 70 percent of households and 79 percent of the population in rural areas living below the overall poverty line. However, in the urban areas, the corresponding figures were respectively 40 and 54 percent for greater Banjul and 46 and 62 percent for other urban areas.

It would be recalled from above that the extremely poor were those households and persons whose consumption fell below the food poverty line and hence were food insecure. Accordingly therefore, the study revealed that 37 percent of households and 51 percent of the population in The Gambia were extremely poor and food insecure. As for the urban/rural differentials, extreme poverty hits rural areas more (60% of households and 70% of the population) than urban areas (13 and 21 percent for Greater Banjul and 28 and 44 percent for other urban areas respectively). It can therefore, be safely deducted from table 6.18 that the extent of extreme poverty and food insecurity declines with increasing urbanisation.

Table 6.18: Percentage distribution of households and persons by poverty category, mean permanent income (in dalasis) and residence

Poverty category	Greater Banjul			Other urban			Rural			All areas		
	Mean income	% HH	% Persons	Mean income	% HH	% Persons	Mean income	% HH	% Persons	Mean income	% HH	% Persons
Extremely poor	2188	13	21	1861	28	42	1426	60	70	1570	37	51
Poor	4153	27	33	3197	18	20	2812	10	9	3645	18	18
Non poor	11641	60	46	6177	54	38	5560	30	20	8536	45	31

Source: 1998 National Household Poverty Survey Report

Figure 6.12: Proportion of Households and Persons found to be extremely poor, poor and non-poor for All Areas, 1998

Poverty Category

☐ All Areas % HH ■ All Areas % Persons
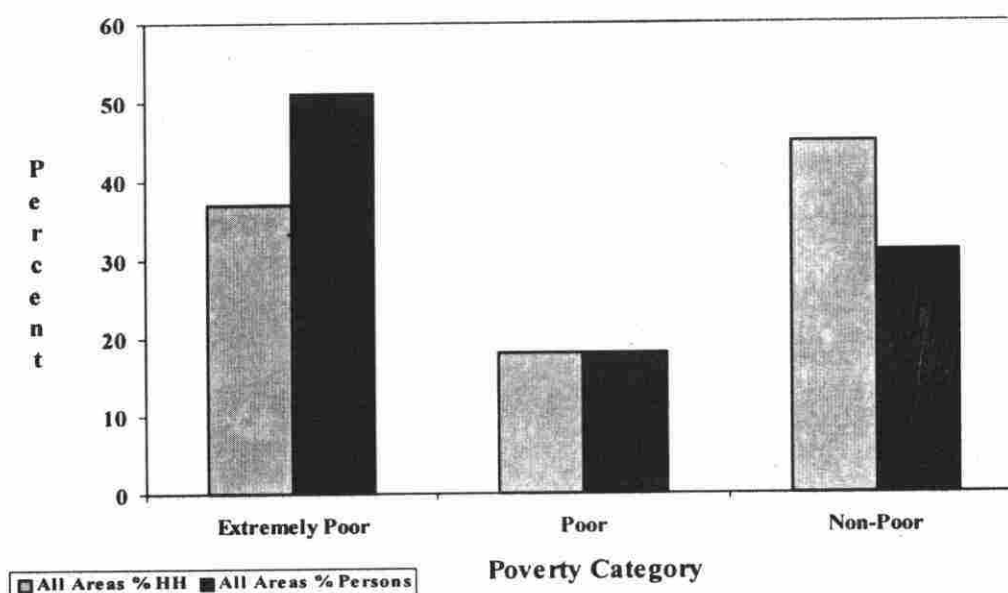
Conclusion

Presenting over two hundred indicators in one volume is not a simple task. It is not unusual for such a piece of work to have shortcomings. For example, the health section would have been richer if data were available for all the indicators proposed. Nonetheless, updating and revising this profile as and when additional data become available would make it useful for both local and international use. Furthermore, synthesising it with the country profiles of the rest of the CILSS member states will facilitate comparison among sahelian countries and beyond.

The project was originally planned to last for eleven months. However, as earlier mentioned, data for the indicators proposed are widely scattered amongst national institutions and hence, visiting these institutions and acquiring the requisite information becomes difficult and time consuming. As a result therefore, the project has well exceeded its planned life span.

Data available for some of the indicators are inadequate because of the analysis done at the source. This problem was found to prevail across the entire Sahel and hence it was generally agreed at the Banjul workshop that an in-depth analysis should be done for these useful indicators. It is hoped that the in-depth analysis project, which should follow, will be launched before the end of the second quarter of 2002.

It would not be fair to conclude without mentioning our appreciation to CERPOD for introducing the profile teams to the spectrum package. This package, which comprises of four modules namely Demproj, Aim, Famplan and Rapid, was briefly introduced at the launching workshop in Bamako. The Segou workshop, which followed in May 2000, was basically on the operations of the package. No doubt, national statistical institutions will find it useful for demographic projections as well as projecting the impact of socio-economic variables such as HIV/AIDS, family planning and education on their populations. We recommend that CERPOD organise further training on the package to better build the capacities of national institutions.

ANNEX

List of agglomerations of 10,000 inhabitants and more and their population

1983		**1993**	
BANJUL	48,188	BANJUL	42,326
BAKAU NEWTOWN	12,339	BAKAU NEWTOWN	26,687
DIPPA KUNDA	11,673	BUNUNKA KUNDA	41,369
EBOU TOWN	10,763	DIPPA KUNDA	15,081
BUNUNKA KUNDA	20,260	FAJI KUNDA	12,744
BRIKAMA	19,624	LATRI KUNDA	22,902
FARAFENNI	10,168	LATRI KUNDA SABIJI	11,289
	133,015	NEW JESHWANG	21,656
		SERRE KUNDA	18,901
		TALINDING	19,773
		LAMIN	10,668
		SUKUTA	12,170
		BRIKAMA	41,761
		FARAFENNI	20,956
			318,283

Figure A of Annex: List of Agglonerations of 10000 inhabitants and more and their population, 1983

□ 1983

Figure B of Annex: List of Agglonerations of 10,000 inhabitants and more and their population, 1993

Population (y-axis): 0 – 45,000

Settlements (x-axis): Banjul, Bakau N/Town, Bununka Kunda, Dippa Kunda, Faji Kunda, Latrikunda, Latrikunda Sabiji, New Jeshwang, Serre Kunda, Talinding, Lamin, Sukuta, Brikama, Farafenni

Settlement

1993
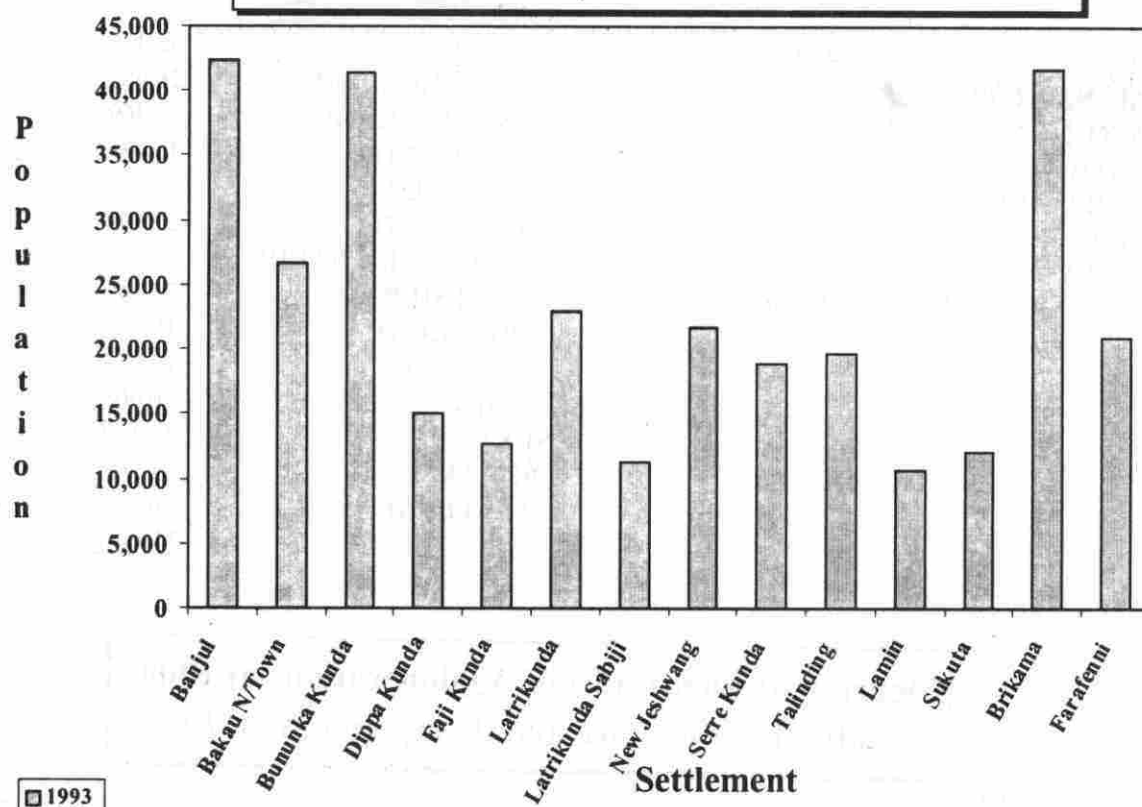
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