Overview of Sri Lanka current CRVS situation, challenges, opportunities and way forward

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Introduction

• Civil registration activities conducted during the period of Dutch era (17th Century), in selected communities of Western and Southern Regions of the country

• The Registrar General’s Department, which was established in 1864 in view of securing the civil right of the populace by in registering the legal documents, related to movable, immovable properties and even registering preserving and issuing copies of the title

• Registration of Marriage, Birth and Death under civil registration system started in 1867

• Vital Statistics Unit (VSU) has been established in the Department of Registrar Generals and Department of Census & Statistics(DCS) provide the technical assistance.

• Operation of civil registration is handled by Registrar General
According to the Births & Deaths Registration Act, every births and deaths occurred in Sri Lanka, should register within 3 months.

- Ninety nine percent of births occurs at hospitals
- Still Births also register under this act.
- Fifty percent deaths occur at hospitals and rest (community deaths) without health facilities.
- General marriage (88%), Muslim marriages (11%) Upcountry marriages (1%)
Current status of Civil registration

- Sri Lanka believe Birth and death registration is almost reached the target.
- Two questions are included in next population census (2024) to find out birth and death coverage.
- Births and deaths registration is compulsory.
- At primary school entrance must produce child birth certificate.
- Deceased body cannot cremate or burial without death registration.
- Arrange mobile registration camps for elders, who did not register their birth or marriage.
- Civil registration is done base on the place of occurrence of the civil event.
- Sri Lanka already started to issue a unique Identity number (My number) for every citizen.
Services of CRVS

➢ Details and certificates of all births, Deaths and marriages registered since 1960, uploaded in to electronic format.

➢ Any person can get endorsed certificate any time, any Divisional Secretariat Division(335) without considering place of registration, providing required details of registration such as date and place of registration & registration number etc....

➢ Registration before 1960, should visit to the Divisional Secretariat Division, where registration was done to get the endorsed certificate.
Organizing Structure & civil registration

➢ Registrar General vested powers to register all births, deaths and marriages in the country.
➢ Registrar general is appointed officers in each and every administrative areas (9 provinces, 25 Districts & 335 Divisional Secretariat Divisions) to assist him for civil registration activities.
➢ Divisional Secretariat Divisions are sub divided into registration areas and appointed local registrars (1700) for civil registrations.
➢ Hospital authority, village head, superintendent of estate and inquire into sudden death (ISD) report to local registrar (informant of birth and death) with relevant documents for registration.
➢ Local registrar cannot register birth & death without legal document issued by informant (Hospital, village head, superintendent of estate or inquire into sudden death)
Procedure of Births Registration

Birth → Home → Relative → Hospital (B148) → Doctor → Grama Niladhari (Village head) (B23) → Estate → Estate Superintendent → Estate Doctor → Registrar → DS Division
Procedure of Death Registration

- Hospital
- Home
- Suicide
- Homicide
- Accident

1. Iquire into Sudden Death
2. Village head
3. Doctor
4. Registrar

- B18
- B24
- B33
Issuing certificates

1\textsuperscript{st} Writing in triplicate

2\textsuperscript{nd} Registrar

3\textsuperscript{rd} Data Entry Centre via Divisional Secretariat Office – store in the Central Record Room

Informant

Preserve in D.S Office

With the Statistical Forms
Vital Data Collection Procedure

1. **Registrar**
   - Births, Deaths & Marriage statistical forms and Monthly Summary
   - Death declarations & death certificates

2. **Central record room**
   - Death declarations & death certificates

3. **Divisional secretariat Office**
   - Births, Deaths & Marriage statistical forms

4. **District office**
   - Births, Deaths & Marriage data

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Vital Statistical Unit
611,412 vital events (Births-284,848, Deaths-163,936 and Marriages-162,628) registered in 2021

- Highest civil registration reported in Western Province (27.8%)
- Lowest civil registration reported in Northern Province (5.9%)
Civil registration 2020 - 2021

- Birth: 301,706 (2020) vs. 284,748 (2021)
- Death: 132,431 (2020) vs. 163,936 (2021)
- Marriages: 143,061 (2020) vs. 162,628 (2021)
Progress

➢ Almost reach the Goal 1 (Civil registration) & Goal 2 Issue certificate

➢ Produce vital statistics with data dissemination gap (Goal 3)

➢ Inquire of sudden death Statistical form (B18) for cause of death has modified based on the WHO standards
Challenges

Civil registration
progress of the My Number programme is very less due to lack of infrastructure facilities.

Only 6 out of 335 divisional secretariat divisions started to issue national identification number (My Number)

Vital statistics

Data Dissemination gap is the big challenge of Vital Statistics

Latest available vital statistics
Detail Birth, death & marriage tabulation
- Births up to year 2017
- Death up to 2019
- Marriages up to 2017

Course of death – 2019 (but 2016,2017 and 2018 not coded yet.)

Last Vital Statistics publication was 2017
Way forward

➢ National Identity number (My Number) is going to introduce for all citizens
   1st stage – new born children

➢ Introduce ICD version 11 for mortality coding
Suggestions

Financial and technical assistance need to
➢ infrastructure facility need to accelerate My Number Programme

➢ introduce fully automated online vital statistical system to bridge the data gap.

➢ Capacity building
  Eg: Medical terminology, iris software training for mortality coders & Statistical staff
Thanks