# **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Which is the principal vital event?

### Answer:

Death is a principle 'vital event' for which the vital statistics are collected and compiled by the vital statistics registration system.

## 2. What are the other vital statistical events?

### Answer:

The other principal vital events for which vital statistics are collected and compiled are live births, fetal deaths, marriages and divorces. Secondly, adoptions, legitimations, annulments and legal separations may be included.

# 3. What does the vital statistical system include?

### Answer:

The vital statistics system includes the legal registration, statistical recording and reporting of the occurrence of vital events and the collection compilation and analysis, presentation and distribution of vital statistics.

4. Why do we need death statistics?

### Answer:

Death statistics are needed for the purpose of demographic studies and for public health administration.

# 5. What are the uses of death statistics?

### Answer:

The most important use of death statistics include; analysis of the present demographic status of the population as well as its potential growth; filling the administrative and research needs of the public health agencies in connection with the development, operation and evaluation of the public health programs; determination of administrative policy and action in connection with the programs of the government agencies.

# 6. What is force of mortality?

#### Answer:

Force of mortality represents the instantaneous rate of mortality at a certain age measured on an annualized basis.

7. What is the assumption through which the force of mortality is achieved? **Answer**:

The force of mortality is achieved through the assumption that deaths are uniformly distributed over the interval x to x plus 1.

8. What are the two concepts used for measuring longevity? **Answer**:

In measuring the longevity two concepts should be distinguished – life span and life expectancy.

9. What do we mean by life span? **Answer:** 

Life span concept tries to establish numerically the extreme limit of age in life. That is the maximum age that human beings as a species could reach under optimum conditions. There is no known exact figure under this concept.

10. What do you mean by life expectancy?

### Answer:

Life expectancy is the expected (in the statistical sense) number of years of life remaining at a given age. It is denoted by ex, which means the average number of subsequent years of life for someone now aged x, according to a particular mortality experience.

11. What is expectation of life at birth?

#### Answer:

The expectation of life at birth is the life table function most frequently used as an index of the level of mortality. It also represents a summarization of the whole series of mortality rates for all ages combined, as weighted by the life table stationary population.

12. What is a stationary population?

### Answer:

A population is said to be stationary if it is of constant size, and constant age and sex composition over time.

13. What is a stable population?

### Answer:

A population is said to be stable if it has a fixed age and sex distribution, if constant mortality and fertility rates are experienced at each age and if the population is closed to emigration or immigration.

14. Why is expectation of life at the age of 1 as a comparative measure?

#### Answer:

In some cases, because of the strong effect of the infant mortality rate on the expectation of life at birth, it would be better to use the expectation of life at the age of 1 as a comparative measure of the general level of mortality of a population, perhaps in conjunction with infant mortality rate.

15. What is curate expectation of life?

### Answer:

The curate expectation of life, usually denoted by  $e_x$  gives the average number of complete years of life lived by the cohort  $I_0$  after age x by each of  $I_x$  persons attaining that age.