



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**Ministry of Economic Planning and Development**

**CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE**

**1990**  
**HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS**  
**OF**  
**MAURITIUS**

**ANALYSIS REPORT**

**Volume V — Women and Youth in Development**

**December 1996**

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**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Central Statistical Office conducted a complete Housing and Population Census in 1990. This is the sixteenth census for the country. A series of tabulation reports covering topics such as housing, demography and fertility, economic activity, education, household characteristics, migration and disability was published during the following years. At the same time, an evaluation and analysis of the census data was carried out with the help of a regional advisor from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ( UNECA ).

This Report, forming part of a series of analytical reports prepared by the CSO is on Women and Youth in Mauritius. It covers the demographic, socio-economic and health and disability characteristics as reported in the 1990 census and related data. Since separate reports covering various socio-economic and demographic characteristics have been published as part of the census analysis wherein both gender and age characteristics have been more elaborately treated, this report on women and youth only highlights some of the findings of these studies.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the team of local analysts for the efforts put into the analysis of the census and related data and the preparation of the reports. My thanks also go to the United Nations Population Fund ( UNFPA ) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ( UNECA ) for financial and technical assistance. Finally, the analyst team and myself are most grateful to Dr. K.V. Ramachandran for his guidance and supervision.

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# CONTENTS

## Page

### **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

1.1	Focus	1
1.2	Gender Issues	2
1.3	Youth Issues	3

### **CHAPTER 2: WOMEN**

2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Size and Structure of Female Population	4
2.3	Marriage and Fertility of Women	5
2.4	Female Headed Households	9
2.5	Education and Training of Women	10
2.6	Economic Activity of Women	13
2.7	Disability	16
2.8	Health, Morbidity and Mortality Among Women	18
2.9	Migration and Mobility	20
2.10	Projection of Female Population	21

### **CHAPTER 3: YOUTH**

3.1	Introduction	23
3.2.	Composition and Change of the Youth Population	25
3.3.	Family Formation and Fertility	26
	3.3.1 <i>Marital status</i>	26
	3.3.2 <i>Household</i>	27
	3.3.3 <i>Fertility</i>	28

3.4.	Education	29
	3.4.1 <i>School attendance</i>	29
	3.4.2 <i>Educational attainment</i>	30
	3.4.3 <i>Ability to read and write</i>	31
3.5.	Economic Activity	31
3.6	Health, Morbidity and Mortality	33
	3.6.1 <i>Health</i>	33
	3.6.2 <i>Morbidity and cause of death</i>	34
	3.6.3 <i>Mortality</i>	34
3.7	Disability /Handicap	35
3.8.	Migration and Mobility among the Youth	35
3.9	Population Projections	38

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Page
2.1 Population by age group and sex, 1990	5
2.2 Female population aged 15+ by age and marital status, 1990	6
2.3 Average no. of children ever born by age of ever married women, 1990	8
2.4 Age specific marital and general fertility rate by age, 1990	8
2.5 Female heads of households by marital status, 1990	10
2.6 Headship rate and sex ratio by age of female heads, 1990	10
2.7 School attendance of female population aged 5-29 years, 1990	11
2.8 Age specific enrollment by sex, 1990	11
2.9 Illiteracy rates by age group and sex, 1990	12
2.10 Female pop. 5+ not attending school by educational attainment, 1990	13
2.11 Population 12 years and over by current activity status and sex, 1990	13
2.12 Economic activity rate of females 15+ by age and marital status, 1990	14
2.13 Female heads by age group and other members by age, 1990	15
2.14 Female heads by age and economically active & total members, 1990	15
2.15 Persons with disabilities by type of disability and sex	17
2.16 Age and sex specific disability rate (ASSDR)	17
2.17 Expectation of life at specified ages by sex, 1990	19
2.18 Percentage increase in expectation of life by age, 1983-90	20
2.19 Projected resident female population by age group- 1993 to 2013	21

3.1 Resident youth population (15-24) by age and sex, 1990	25
3.2 Resident youth population (15-24) by geographical district and sex, 1990	26
3.3 Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by marital status and sex	27
3.4 Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by school attendance and sex, Island of Mauritius, 1983 & 1990	29
3.5 Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 who attended school in the past by certificate obtained, Island of Mauritius & Rodrigues, 1990	30
3.6 Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by activity status and sex, Island of Mauritius, 1983 & 1990	32
3.7 Currently employed youth population (15-24) by major industrial division and sex, 1990	32
3.8 Distribution of young handicapped (15-24 years ) by type of handicap, 1990	35
3.9 Estimated intercensal migration by district and age group, 1972-1983 and 1983-1990	37
3.10 Projection of resident youth population (15-24) by sex, 1995 - 2015	39

# **CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 FOCUS**

Two of the most important information collected in any socio-economic and demography enquiry pertain to age and sex. Demographic parameters like fertility, mortality and migration are affected by and in turn affect age and sex distribution of a population. Also socio - economic characteristics like education, economic activity are affected by the age and sex composition of a population. Since fertility, mortality and migration are influenced by socio - economic variables, their interrelation with age and sex structure is quite evident.

Females constitute around half of any population and since the socio - economic and demographic characteristics are influenced by the sex composition of a population, not only are data collected and disaggregated by sex, but also any meaningful analysis is possible only when consideration is given to the information by sex.. Also for any meaningful planning and policy formulation, there is need to consider the situations of the two sexes separately as the needs, problems and other aspects are sex specific.

The Youth population pertains to a specific age segment of a population. Here also, planning, policy formulation and implementation of programmes should take into account the special requirements of this vital segment of the population for any meaningful development. Data are usually collected by single years of age and therefore there is no problem to disaggregate any information by the specific age group which is considered as constituting the youth segment in a country. However, due to practical problems, usually cross classified data especially for detailed socio - economic geographic and other characteristics are only presented in the conventional five year age groups like 0-4, 5-9 etc But, in certain cases, where the characteristic is known to be changing rapidly, like mortality at young ages, education in the childhood ages, marriage in teen ages, etc. data may be presented by single years. With the advent of the computer, it is possible to produce tabulations of data by whatever age groups are needed. Unfortunately, when one has to depend upon published information, one has to make compromises. Therefore, for convenience, the youth population in this report is defined as those between the ages of 15 and 24.



Information and analysis about women and youth are presented based on the 1990 census and related data and compared with situation existing in the past. These are expected to assist in the understanding of the existing conditions, how they are changing or not changing and to do it in such a way that will reach decision makers, the media and all persons concerned. It provides information about how much youth and women contribute to social, economic, political and family life. Information can support appeals to persuade public and private decision makers to change policies that are unfair or implement programmes to improve the situation.

It may be mentioned that detailed reports on various socio - economic, geographic and demographic characteristics have been prepared as part of the analysis of the 1990 census of Republic of Mauritius. These are: (1) Households and housing, (2) Disability and its prevalence, (3) Population distribution and migration, (4) Data evaluation and projections, (5) Nuptiality and fertility, (6) Economic activity - Characteristics and prospects, (7) Educational characteristics, prospects and implications and (8) Health, morbidity and mortality. Also several volumes of tables covering : (1) Housing and living conditions (2) Demographic and fertility characteristics, (3) Economic characteristics, (4) Educational characteristics, (5) Household characteristics, (6) Geographic and migration characteristics, and (7) Disability have already been published.

## **1.2 GENDER ISSUES**

Issues of gender equality are moving to the top of the global agenda but better understanding of women's and men's contributions to society is essential to speed the shift from agenda to policy to practice. Too often, women and men live in different worlds - worlds that differ in access to education, work opportunity , life conditions and in health etc.

In many cases, good information has been lacking and as a result , policy has been ill - informed, strategy unfounded and practice unquestioned. Fortunately this has been changing, primarily because advocates of women's interest have done much in the past 20 years to sharpen people's awareness of the importance of gender concerns. This growing awareness has increased the demand for better statistics to inform and focus the debate and today

women's condition and concerns have moved to the centre of social, economic and political change.

### **1.3 YOUTH ISSUES**

The youth segment of a population constitutes an important asset for future development of any country. Youth are dynamic and capable of being a driving force behind any effort at needed development. and their vitality, initiatives and skills determine the rate of economic and social development of a country They are the future leaders of the country. For this reason, young people must be given proper education and necessary training for the life conditions and especially for the labour market. They must be constantly kept informed of social development and be warned against the ill effects of certain notorious activities, like early pregnancy, drugs abuse, etc. Necessary policies must be formulated by the relevant authorities for the welfare of the youth to make them become responsible citizens.

## **CHAPTER 2 - WOMEN**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Women represent 50.1% of the population of Mauritius. Their contributions, visible and invisible, to the building up of Mauritius is each year taking new dimensions.

Women are aspiring for more economic independence even if this demands certain adjustments to their behavioral pattern. Women have readily accepted to reconcile family life with work and to strike a balance between the two.

### **2.2. SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF FEMALE POPULATION**

In June 1990, the female population of the Island of Mauritius was about 512,000 out of a total of 1.022 million (i.e. 50.1%) and that of the Island of Rodrigues was near 17,000 out of about 34,000 (50.1%).

The slight imbalance in favour of women noticed in the past years is decreasing. In fact the percentage of women in the total population has fallen from 50.2% in 1983 to 50.1% in 1990 and consequently the sex ratio which was 100.8 women for 100 men in 1983 has declined to 100.2 in 1990. In the predominantly urban districts of Port Louis and Plainness Wilhems and also in Moka there were more females than males both in 1983 and 1990 but the opposite held in rural districts of Pamplemousses, Flacq, Grand Port, Savane and Black River. In the other districts - Riviere du Rempart and island of Rodrigues even though there were more females than males in 1983, the shift occurred in 1990.

Between 1983 and 1990 the female population has increased on the average only by 0.77% annually in the Island of Mauritius and 0.50% in the Island of Rodrigues. The males, on the other hand, had growth rates of 0.84% in island of Mauritius and 0.45% in Rodrigues.

The reductions in child bearing rates and mortality rates are reflected in the changing age structure of the population. Both men and women are now living up to an older

age on the average. The median age for women in the Island of Mauritius registered an increase of 14% from 1983 to 1990, rising from 22.7 years to 25.8 years. In the Island of Rodrigues, the median age rose from 16.9 years to 18.7 years during the same period. Thus the population of Island of Rodrigues is still young but that in the Island of Mauritius is noted to be aging. This is indicated again by the proportion aged 65 and over which is also rising. For instance, the proportion of males aged 65 years and above in Republic of Mauritius in 1983 was 3.8 which increased to 4.5 in 1990. Similarly for females the increase was from 5.3 to 6.2. In Rodrigues also there was an increase, but it was of lower magnitude (for males from 2.9 to 3.3 and for females from 4.1 to 4.6). The female child population under age 15 which was 32.1% in 1983 dropped to 29.3% in 1990. Improvement in mortality, fall in fertility and some emigration at young adult ages are the factors responsible. The female life expectancy at birth increased from 62.3 years in 1981-83 to 73.4 years in 1989-91, the general fertility rate declined from 78.3 to 77.4 between 1983 and 1990 in the country. Table 2.1 gives the population by sex and functional age groups in 1990 for Republic of Mauritius, island of Mauritius and island of Rodrigues.

Table 2.1 - Population by age groups and sex, 1990

Age (years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	48,820	47,899	46,831	45,947	1,989	1,952
5-14	109,672	107,083	104,719	1,021,217	4,953	4,956
15-44	274,477	266,204	266,963	258,883	7,514	7,321
45-64	70,816	74,941	68,756	72,839	2,060	2,102
65+	23,945	32,731	23,378	31,944	567	787
<b>Total</b>	<b>527,760</b>	<b>528,900</b>	<b>510,676</b>	<b>511,780</b>	<b>17,004</b>	<b>17,120</b>

## 2.3 MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY OF WOMEN

There has been significant changes in the distribution by marital status of the population aged 15 years and over.

The proportion of single (never-married) women which represented some 30% of all females aged 15+ in 1983 went down to nearly 26% in 1990. At the same time, the proportion of those married reported at the 1990 census increased from 51.8% to 55.4%. There were also about 2% of women who were in consensual unions. Only 4% of women aged 50 years or more had never contracted any form of union. In Island of Rodrigues the

proportion married decreased from 51.5 in 1983 to 47.3 but the proportion in consensual unions increased from 9.1 % to 10.4%. However, over the past three decades there has been a general increase in the age at first marriage of Mauritian women. But the rate of increase in the age at marriage is tapering off. Thus the singulate mean age at marriage ( SMAM ) rose only by one month between 1983 and 1990, i.e. from 23.70 years to 23.79 years. In Rodrigues it increased from 21.7 in 1983 to 22.0 in 1990.

Table 2.2 - Female population aged 15+ by age and marital status, Mauritius, 1990

Age (years)	Single	Married	In a Union	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated	Total
Republic of Mauritius						
15-19	42,463	4,589	679	9	147	47,964
20-29	36,725	59,812	2,520	398	2,317	102,131
30-39	10,983	65,981	2,086	2,197	4,340	85,800
40-49	3,826	38,704	1,225	5,761	3,460	53,111
50+	3,552	38,182	1,408	38,392	3,113	84,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,549</b>	<b>207,268</b>	<b>7,918</b>	<b>46,757</b>	<b>13,379</b>	<b>373,876</b>
Island of Mauritius						
15-19	40,806	4,490	494	9	142	45,982
20-29	35,905	58,492	2,086	389	2,228	99,270
30-39	10,884	64,624	1,878	2,160	4,252	83,942
40-49	3,797	37,741	1,119	5,677	3,387	51,791
50+	3,477	37,093	1,278	37,728	2,981	82,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,869</b>	<b>202,440</b>	<b>6,855</b>	<b>45,963</b>	<b>12,990</b>	<b>363,666</b>
Island of Rodrigues						
15-19	1,657	99	185	0	5	1,982
20-29	820	1,320	434	9	91	2,861
30-39	99	1,357	208	37	88	1,858
40-49	29	963	106	84	73	1,320
50+	75	1,089	130	664	132	2,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>4,828</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>10,210</b>

There seems to be no problem for women below 30 years to get married for the market is more or less stable at these ages where most people tend to get married. However, on account of excess male mortality, there may be high levels of female celibacy among those aged 30 years and over. For instance, for every 100 females aged between 35-39 who want to get married to men aged 40-44 years ( mean age difference between husbands and wives in 1990 is around 4.4 years ), there are only about 41 spouses available. However, the problem is less acute if they look for husbands of their own age group in which case there is only a deficit of about 9 males.

On the other hand, due to improved mortality, the median age of widowhood increased from 66.9 years to 68.5 years for males and from 62.6 years to 64.0 years for females between 1983 and 1990. With the life tables for 1983 it means that a widower will spend 10.1 years in that state as compared with a widow who will be in that state for 16.5 years. In 1990, the corresponding periods are 10.4 years and 16.2 years. Thus there is a reduction of 0.3 years in the period of time spent in widowhood status between 1983 and 1990 but an increase of 0.3 years in time spent by widowers. Due to higher improvement in mortality in Island of Rodrigues, the widower would spend 9.7 years in 1990 as against 10.6 years in 1983. But the widow in 1990 would spend 14.9 years as against 13.7 years in 1983. Thus the gap widened to 5.2 years from 3.1 years and the widow would spend 1.2 more years in that status than earlier.

At the same time, the incidence of divorce/separation in the Republic increased from 2.0% in 1983 to 2.5% in 1990 for men but declined for females from 5.4% to 4.8%. However, for Island of Rodrigues both rates went up (from 2.1% to 3.4% for men and from 3.9% to 5.2% for women between 1983 and 1990). So it seems that the trauma of divorce/separation is also more pronounced for women in Island of Rodrigues.

Increasing availability of modern family planning methods, higher level of education and better access to the labour market have made it easier for Mauritian women to limit their fertility and to decide on the timing and spacing of their children. The average number of children born to non-single women aged between 15 and 54 years was 2.7 in 1990 as compared to 3.1 in 1983. Fertility rate was still higher in Island of Rodrigues where an average of 3.8 children were reported for women aged between 15 to 54 years while for Island of Mauritius it was only 2.7. About 37% of ever married women in the Republic of Mauritius had 4 or more children in 1990 corresponding to 50% of women in Island of Rodrigues. Also 3.1% of women at the end of their reproductive span aged 45-49 in the Republic were reported as childless compared with 3.7% in Rodrigues.

Despite the achievements in regard to fertility reduction and management, still there was high prevalence of teen age pregnancies reported around 1994 as 10.5% in island of Mauritius and 16.6% in Rodrigues. An indication of high teen age pregnancy is the proportion of births to young mothers which remained at around 10% in the 1990s in island of Mauritius

and around more than 16% in Rodrigues. A consequence of high teen age pregnancy is the phenomenon of abortions. A study of factors contributing to abortions in Mauritius in 1996 showed that 9% of women treated for complications of abortions in regional hospitals were under 19 years.

Younger women in Mauritius no longer seem to have the tendency of postponing births as was the practice in the late seventies. Between 1983 and 1990, there has been significant increase in the average number of children born to younger women (under 30 years) while a general fall has been noticed for women of older age groups.

Table 2.3 - Average number of children ever born by age of ever married women - 1990 Census

Age (years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Women	Av.Children	Women	Av.Children	Women	Av.Children
15-19	5,486	0.57	5,161	0.55	325	0.84
20-24	25,836	1.03	24,938	1.02	898	1.63
25-29	39,540	1.68	38,398	1.66	1,142	2.54
30-34	39,339	2.35	38,329	2.32	1,010	3.67
35-39	35,455	2.93	34,706	2.89	749	4.88
40-44	27,732	3.58	27,125	3.53	607	5.89
45-49	21,542	4.42	20,858	4.36	684	6.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>276,259</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>268,721</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>4.31</b>

Table 2.2 presents the female population by age and marital status in 1990. Table 2.3 gives the mean parity by age of ever married women and table 2.4 gives the age specific general and marital fertility rates in 1990.

Table 2.4 - Age specific marital (ASFMR) and general fertility (ASFR) rate by age, 1990

Island/Country	Rate	Age(Years)						
		15-19	20-24	25-29	31-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Rep. of Mauritius	ASFMR	411.7	298.5	190.8	101.1	49.5	15.1	2.4
Isl. of Mauritius		406.9	297.8	190.4	100.5	48.6	14.1	1.8
Isl. of Rodrigues		524.6	317.5	198.4	124.6	92.7	59.7	20.0
Rep. of Mauritius	ASFR	45.2	147.2	138.1	80.4	39.1	11.4	1.8
Isl. of Mauritius		44.1	146.9	137.7	79.8	38.4	10.7	0.9
Isl. of Rodrigues		75.2	152.2	150.3	110.7	94.5	46.8	8.6

## 2.4 FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Several changes would appear to have taken place at the level of the family. Family size has fallen from 4.8 in 1983 to 4.5 in 1990. Also between 1983 and 1990, there has been an increase in the number of female headed households from about 38,000 ( 18.5% ) to 42,000 ( 17.6% ) - as a percentage of total households, however, it has declined. There were 5,900 and 6,500 divorced and separated female heads in 1983 and 1990, respectively, accounting for around 16% of female headed households and about 3% of total households. This indicates that divorce, which is an indicator of the ultimate disintegration of family life, has emerged as a significant characteristic of Mauritian society.

Headship rates declined between 1983 and 1990 in Mauritius, but female headship rates witnessed bigger falls than the males at almost all ages. The decrease was most significant among the married females and it occurred at all ages. Only among the old single, widowed, divorced and separated females did there occur a slight increase in headship rates. On the whole, female headship rates fell over the period, and this would have been more pronounced but for the increasing proportion of widowed, divorced and separated females and the increase in headship rate thereof. It should be stressed that the Mauritian family is still dominated by males and that male role as decision maker within the family is deeply embedded which very often stifles women growth and development.

Of the 41,584 households in Mauritius (i.e. 17.6% of total households) which were headed by women, in 4.3% of these, the women were living with a spouse- in Rodrigues it was 13.1%. Rodrigues also had a slightly higher proportion of female headed households - 19%. Women-headed households differ in many other ways from those households headed by men. Women heads in Mauritius were generally older than male heads with average ages of 55 years and 45 years respectively. Also 18% of female headed households were of single member as against only 3% among all households. Therefore such households were smaller in size with an average of 3.68 persons as compared to 4.64 persons per household headed by men but proportionately had more women in the households. Female headed households had a sex ratio ( male per 100 female ) of 64.7 as compared with 107.3 for male headed households.



Table 2.5 - Female heads of households by marital status, 1990

Marital Status	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single	2,131	5	2,080	5	51	4
Married 1/	3,860	9	3,647	9	213	16
Widowed	28,735	69	28,133	70	602	44
Divorced/separated	6,496	16	6,231	16	265	19
Other	387	1	146	0	241	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,609</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40,237</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>100</b>

1/ Married civilly, religiously or in a union

Among female heads in Republic of Mauritius, 85% were widowed, divorced or separated and only 9% were married. In Rodrigues around 16% were married and 63% were widowed, divorced or separated.

Table 2.5 presents the marital status of female heads and table 2.6 gives headship rate and sex ratio by age of female heads in 1990.

Table 2.6 - Headship rate and sex ratio by age of female heads, 1990

Age (Years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Rate	Sex ratio	Rate	Sex ratio	Rate	Sex ratio
15-19	0.11	367	0.8	418	0.61	200
20-24	0.62	1279	0.52	1469	3.69	428
25-29	1.53	2076	1.39	2168	6.68	797
30-34	3.79	1662	3.64	1715	10.05	857
35-39	7.87	1052	7.75	1064	13.92	709
40-44	13.94	635	13.86	637	17.58	572
45-49	19.39	457	19.37	457	20.14	460
50+	31.72	243	31.64	243	34.17	237

## 2.5 EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

Around 54% of girls of 2-4 years in Mauritius were attending pre-primary schools at the time of the 1990 Census. Education was almost universal for those aged between 5 to 9 years with an enrollment rate of 98%. Among the female population aged 5-29 years, 44% were attending school and 54% had been to school in the past.

Table 2.7 - School attendance of female population aged 5-29 years, 1990

School Attendance	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Now	112,056	44	107,896	44	4,160	43
Never	5,156	2	4,657	2	499	5
Past	139,812	54	134,675	54	5,137	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,178</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>247,379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,799</b>	<b>100</b>

Age specific enrollment rates indicate that in 1990 girls have comparable levels or even slightly better levels upto age 14 but at higher ages the disparity between boys and girls widens despite the commendable improvements in the female rates between 1983 and 1990.

Table 2.8 - Age specific enrollments by sex, 1990

Age (Years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	97.1	96.6	95.8	94.8	90.8	86.3
6	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.6	95.5	98.0
7	98.6	98.5	98.7	98.5	94.9	98.5
8	98.2	98.0	98.3	98.2	94.8	95.0
9	97.5	97.5	97.8	97.8	90.5	92.7
10	95.9	96.4	96.3	96.8	86.1	86.1
11	90.6	91.6	91.4	92.1	73.7	79.7
12	75.1	76.1	76.2	76.9	49.1	57.4
13	65.2	66.6	66.8	68.2	30.2	34.2
14	58.4	60.0	59.7	61.2	31.2	33.8
15	55.1	54.2	56.4	55.4	25.8	27.4
16	47.8	46.7	48.7	47.6	26.5	24.5
17	37.0	34.3	37.8	35.0	20.7	18.7
18	27.4	22.0	27.9	22.5	14.6	9.0
19	16.3	12.2	16.7	12.6	6.8	1.1

The level of school attendance in the Island of Mauritius is still higher than that in Rodrigues. Enrollment rate in pre-primary schools among females aged 2-4 years is 55% in Island of Mauritius and only 30% in Rodrigues. Similarly the rates in primary schools for females of 5 to 9 years were 98% and 94% respectively. The gap became wider with increasing age and in higher level of education. For instance, while 80% of girls aged 10-14 years in the Island of Mauritius were attending school in 1990, only 59% were doing so in Rodrigues. Less than 2% of females 5-29 years in Island of Mauritius had never been to school with a corresponding figure of 5% for Rodrigues.

A measure of time spent in schools is the length of school life. For example, a girl in 1983 was found to be in school for 11.9 years which increased only marginally to 12.0 years in 1990 as compared with an increase of 0.3 years for boys who had the same 11.9 years of school life in 1983. Therefore, even though significant progress was made by girls in education in the 7 year period 1983 to 1990, some of the handicaps of low participation in the past affecting the older cohorts have pulled down her achievements.

Among the 368,285 Mauritian female population aged five years and over who were not attending school at the time of the Census, 20% had either had no education or only some education at pre-primary level, 42% had achieved only primary schooling without passing CPE and 6% succeeded in CPE. At secondary level, 8% studied only up to Form III or a lower level, 11% achieved Form IV or Form V without passing S.C, 9% passed S.C while 3% achieved their H.S.C. 2,712 women in the Island of Mauritius were holders of a post secondary degree. Regarding vocational or technical training women were only around two thirds of that of men and were poorly represented in engineering and even service trades.

Table 2.9 - Illiteracy rates by age group and sex, 1990

Age (Years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
12-19	9.3	7.5	8.3	6.7	33.2	25.3
20-24	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.3	33.6	26.2
25-44	10.8	18.2	10.2	17.7	41.3	42.3
45-54	22.4	44.2	21.1	43.4	64.3	69.3
55+	32.1	56.1	31.1	53.4	73.5	75.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>42.8</b>

About 24% of females aged 12 years and over were completely illiterate in the sense that they could not read and write in any of the languages commonly spoken in Mauritius. In Rodrigues the corresponding figure is 43%. Illiteracy increased by age and females had much higher rates than males.

Table 2.7 shows the school attendance of girls aged 5-29 years and table 2.8 presents age specific school enrollment rates between ages 5 and 19 years. Illiteracy rates of population aged 12 years and over is given in table 2.9. Table 2.10 illustrates the education attainment of females not attending school aged 5 years and above in 1990.

Table 2.10 - Female population 5+ not attending school by educational attainment, 1990

Educational attainment	Country/island		
	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues
Nil & Preprimary	73,971	71,738	2,233
Primary	178,494	170,861	7,633
Lower Secondary	69,819	69,041	778
Passed SC & HSC	42,460	42,113	347
Tertiary	2,585	2,583	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,285</b>	<b>357,285</b>	<b>11,000</b>

## 2.6 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF WOMEN

In June 1990, about 35% of resident female population aged 15 years and over in the Republic were economically active. This group included 33% actually in employment and 2% unemployed and looking for work.

Table 2.11 - Population 12 years and over by current activity status & sex, 1990

Activity	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Employed	283,605	124,013	275,131	120,967	8,474	3,046
First job seekers	14,726	5,759	14,374	5,463	352	296
Worked before	3,037	879	2,993	859	44	20
Household duties	5,875	212,462	5,635	206,132	240	6,330
Studies	45,067	40,913	44,167	39,982	900	931
Disability	9,826	7,805	9,570	7,438	256	367
Retired	30,479	10,287	30,005	10,231	474	56
Others	8,311	3,040	7,751	2,842	560	198
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,144</b>	<b>406,107</b>	<b>390,582</b>	<b>394,481</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>11,626</b>

Since independence there has been a continuous and substantial rise in the female labour force participation rate. Various factors account for this. And particularly over the last twenty-five years Mauritius has experienced a major structural transformation, from an agricultural mono crop economy with high levels of unemployment, low per capita income to a middle income country with almost full employment enabling and even pulling women from homes to employment opportunities. Other factors favourable for the huge female entry into labour market are: The declining birth rate, higher age at marriage, access to education and training, but above all the political will to accelerate the integration of women to the development process and the growing awareness among women themselves that they are partners in development. For instance, the female labour force in the Island of Mauritius rose

from 92,859 in 1983 to 126,319 in 1990, representing an average annual rate of increase of 4.5%. Similarly the activity rate of women (percentage of women in the labour force) rose from 28% to 35% in that period. Women's share in the labour force increased from 26% in 1983 to 30% in 1990. At the same time, 37% of the female heads were in employment and only about half per cent were unemployed and looking for work in Republic of Mauritius but in Rodrigues slightly higher proportions were employed ( 41%) and also unemployed (2%).

Table 2.12 - Economic activity rate of females 15+ by age and marital status, 1990

Age (Years)	All marital Status	Single	Married	Widowed/Divorced Separated
Republic of Mauritius				
12-14	3.4	3.4	16.2	-
15-19	25.7	26.6	17.7	45.9
20-24	43.6	61.0	25.9	57.2
25-29	41.9	64.0	33.4	65.3
30-34	45.6	61.9	40.6	71.9
35-39	45.9	56.5	41.3	71.8
40-44	41.8	48.8	36.2	65.5
45-49	37.0	44.1	31.3	55.8
50-54	32.4	41.5	27.3	43.6
55-59	24.6	34.5	20.0	31.4
60-64	9.0	19.4	6.8	10.4
65+	4.1	10.1	3.9	3.7
Island of Rodrigues				
15-19	24.4	25.3	17.6	34.1
20-24	37.1	47.9	24.6	54.9
25-29	34.2	56.0	27.6	54.2
30-34	35.3	49.2	31.7	57.3
35-39	37.9	55.9	34.2	58.2
40-44	38.9	38.5	35.3	60.2
45-49	36.9	50.0	31.3	58.2
50-54	34.9	26.7	31.9	46.5
55-59	32.5	46.1	26.8	46.3
60-64	24.6	25.0	17.3	32.9
65+	13.6	12.9	15.5	12.6

A measure of dependency is the number of children and old persons in households to be supported by adults. Female headed households had 0.79 children under 15 years and 0.50 persons aged over 60. Only 2.39 persons ( 65% of members ) were aged 15-59. For male headed households, children constituted 21% ( average 1.4 members ) whereas old persons (0.34 persons ) constituted only 7% of household members. Of the 4.64 members in male headed households, 2.86 members were adults aged 15-59. Thus the child dependency in female headed households was 32% but old age dependency was 22%. In male headed households the child dependency was 50% but old age dependency was only 11%. Thus not

only are female headed households older, they also have heavier old age dependency burden. Looking at the problem in yet another way, female headed households had an average of 1.68 members economically active as against 1.86 among male headed households. Whereas 37% of female heads were active, 84% of male heads were active. Comparing with the crude activity rates of 25% for females and 57% for males, it seems that relatively both sexes do not differ in their propensity for engaging in economic endeavours. Activity rates for those aged 15+ were 81% for males and 35% for females. Table 2.12 shows the economic activity rate of females by marital status whereas table 2.13 presents female heads by age group and other members in functional age categories and table 2.14 goes further to look at the economic dependency at household level.

Table 2.13 Female heads by age group and other members by age, Mauritius- 1990

Age of head							
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
Head		51	312	793	1739	3144	4224
Other members:Age							
0-14		41	375	1303	3257	4667	4359
15-44		46	194	357	922	3523	7391
45-59		4	30	33	58	112	199
60+		2	16	58	156	297	488
Total		93	615	1751	4393	8599	12437
Age of head							
		45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	Total
Other members:Age							
0-14		3542	3323	3143	3480	5222	32727
15-44		10062	12271	11807	11483	13467	71649
45-59		250	243	242	246	1949	3366
60+		388	450	407	395	1040	3697
Total		14242	16288	15704	15605	21681	111451

Table 2.14 Female heads by age group and by economically active and total members, Mauritius- 1990

Members	Age of head						
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Head	363	2532	7368	9390	10554	11391	41609
Active members	217	1096	7790	16675	17591	10812	54201
Total members	708	6144	21036	30530	31309	21681	111451

Nearly half of the employed women were engaged in the Manufacturing sector. Other main branches of industrial activity were:- Community, Social & Personal Services (23%), Agriculture and Fishing (14%), Wholesale and Retail Trade & Hotels (8%).

A consequence of the increased number of women in the labour market has been the need for services which were hitherto almost solely, undertaken by unemployed women. These services include baby and child care, care of the elderly, preparation of family meals and other household chores. The private sector has responded to this new demand and several fast-food places and daycare centres have been set up throughout the island, and in particular, in urban areas. The consequence is reflected in a survey on nutrition in Mauritius and Rodrigues, 1995 which noted that 46.6% of children bought food at school and the most popular food items were salted snacks and sweets/chocolates with more preference to salted snacks. This trend is different from the past when children carried food prepared at home. The report pointed out that there was an urgent need to monitor this trend in view of known association with risk factors to NCD. The effect of absence of parents in the family and children being left in the care of baby sitters or day care centres also need to be investigated. Another consequence of the large scale entry of women into the labour market is that the family, as a social unit, is undergoing severe strain which has undermined the authority of the male head of the family. Factors such as modernization, changes in social values, and the emerging materialistic culture which places less importance on upholding traditional values are all contributing to friction in the home.

Growing proportion of women taking up paid employment has also resulted in an increase in the average number of income earners per family. The greater financial independence acquired by women has resulted in the diffusion of authority within the family. As a result, stress developed in the family and this might have partly accounted for the increase in divorces, the appearance of a larger number of single parent families and perhaps also to increased incidence of domestic violence.

## **2.7 DISABILITY**

Out of 27,852 disabled persons representing 2.64% of the population in 1990 in the Republic there were 13,229 females. In Island of Rodrigues the incidence was lower - 375 females among the 755 disabled persons, i.e., 2.21%. The main types of disabilities for

women were 'eye', 'mental' and 'leg and feet'. The disabled females were much older than males and had a median age of 53.2 as against 46.2 for males. The median age of the female population in the Republic is 21.1 and thus a disabled women is more than 30 years older than the average. See tables 2.15 and 2.16.

Table 2.15 - Persons with disabilities by type of disability and sex

Types of disability	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Leg and feet (LF)	3,034	2,239	80	85
Arms and fingers (AF)	813	463	41	22
LF & AF	972	717	17	23
Eye	2,476	3,237	59	80
Ear	712	885	30	25
Eye and Ear	206	333	1	2
Speech	631	514	25	23
Ear and Speech	253	233	10	8
Slow development	767	641	19	14
Mental	3,144	2,569	75	61
Fits	577	572	7	14
Other	1,028	836	19	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,613</b>	<b>13,239</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>372</b>

Table 2.16 - Age and sex specific disability rate (ASSDR)

Age (Years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	4.2	3.4	8.0	9.2
5-9	9.2	8.0	12.9	7.9
10-14	13.4	9.5	17.5	9.1
15-19	14.9	11.3	17.4	14.1
21-24	18.1	11.8	21.9	14.3
25-29	19.2	14.1	17.8	13.7
20-34	20.7	15.5	18.0	14.0
25-29	24.2	18.6	15.4	19.2
40-44	29.5	28.4	12.0	29.0
45-49	47.4	36.6	16.0	32.9
50-54	53.1	40.1	45.6	38.2
55-59	71.8	49.5	44.8	28.3
60-64	80.0	62.2	75.3	85.0
65-69	99.8	82.1	100.4	78.7
70-74	132.3	125.1	115.6	152.8
75+	199.6	210.3	198.7	173.2
<b>All ages</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>21.7</b>

Comparing the marital status distribution of the disabled women with the overall population, it is observed that the proportion of single is 28.5% for the disabled against 16.9 for all women. Similarly the proportion married is only 28.2 as against 64.4 and



widowed is 37.7 against 14.3 and divorced 5.6 versus 4.1. Similar pattern is observed for Island of Rodrigues also. Thus it seems disability has inhibited marriage .

The disabled persons generally have lower educational attainment. Females suffer more. For instance, only 5% of disabled girls aged 2 and above in the Republic are attending school as against 25% among the population. Also, 48% of disabled women had never attended school as against only 17% among the population. Among the disabled women 86.8% did not possess any academic certificate as compared with 62.6% among the overall population.

2,756 females out of the 12,833 disabled females in the Republic were heads of households giving a headship rate of 21.5% with mean age of 61.6 years. The comparable figures for the overall population is 17.6% as heads and with mean age of 55.5 years. Therefore not only proportionately more disabled woman bear the burden of household headship, they are also much older than their sisters with similar responsibilities.

Disability is one of the major causes for inactivity. About 3% of the inactive female population reported 'disability' as cause for inactivity among the overall population. But among the disabled female, around 45% of the inactive. reported disability as cause for inactivity and their number was almost the same as those who reported as household duties.. Economic activity of females which is already low becomes much lower among the disabled. For instance, only 7.4% of disabled women were economically active as against 32.2% among all women. Even among the small proportion employed, elementary occupations constitute a vast majority of the occupational category among the disabled females - 41.6 among disabled versus 27.9% among the overall population.

## **2.8 HEALTH, MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY AMONG WOMEN**

Definite improvement in health and well being has been achieved in the country over the last more than 15 years. However, specific health and nutrition problems still persist. For instance, a survey on nutrition in Mauritius and Rodrigues indicated that among adults over nutrition as indicated by over weight or obesity was around 40%. The waist hip ratio (WHR) was high among 37.6% of males and 31.6% of females and even among those with normal

Body Mass Index (BMI), 33% of men and 29% of women had high WHR. In 1987, only 22.8% of men and 27.6% of women were over weight and 3.4% of men and 10.4% of women were obese. In 1995 the corresponding figures were 30.5% ( over weight ) and 5.5% ( obese ) among men and 31.5% ( over weight ) and 10.6% ( obese ) among women. Taking BMI ( 25-30) and obese together, it was found that 39% of the population were either obese or over weight. The incidence was higher among women - 42% versus 36% among men,. On the positive side, there was significant increase in moderate - heavy physical activity among women as reported by a prevalence rate of 1.3% in 1987 and 16.8% in 1995. Surveys on " Disease and risk factor prevalence and incidence " in Mauritius by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO in 1987 and 1992 indicated obesity is a risk factor for diabetes mellitus and hypertension and is also associated with many other medical problems like gallstones., osteoarthritis etc. High WHR is a measure of abdominal obesity and has been implicated as an independent risk factor for diabetes mellitus and may also play an important part in the much higher risk of coronary heart disease.

Table 2.17 - Expectation of life at specified ages by sex, 1990

Age (Years)	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	65.6	73.4	66.2	72.8
5-9	66.1	73.7	67.8	74.2
10-14	62.3	69.9	64.1	70.7
15-19	57.5	65.0	59.2	65.9
21-24	47.8	55.3	49.6	56.0
25-29	38.3	45.7	40.2	46.2
20-34	29.4	36.3	31.1	36.7
25-29	21.4	27.3	22.7	28.1
40-44	14.8	19.1	15.5	19.9
45-49	9.6	12.2	9.7	12.7
50-54	5.7	7.4	5.4	7.6

The age specific death rates in 1983 and 1990 indicated that generally female rates were much lower than those for males. Also the mortality of women in Mauritius has improved significantly and much faster than that of men. For instance, the life expectation of women in 1962 was 62.0 and became 65.9 in 1972, to 71.7 in 1983 and 73.4 in 1990, indicating a slowing down in improvement in mortality as reasonably high levels are already achieved. Even though men also improved their mortality, the pace was much slower so much so that the gap has widened from 3.3 years in 1962 to 7.8 years in 1990. See tables 2.17 and 2.18.

Table 2.18 - Percentage increase in expectation of life by age 1983-1990

Age	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	1.9	2.4	2.6	5.7
1	1.2	1.8	1.3	4.5
5	1.2	1.6	0.0	3.4
10	1.1	1.7	-0.2	3.6
20	1.2	1.8	-0.4	3.9
30	1.4	1.9	-1.0	3.8
40	2.2	2.2	-1.9	4.3
50	3.3	3.0	-1.3	7.2
60	7.2	3.7	1.3	11.2
70	13.3	5.6	12.8	16.5
80	20.8	7.2	25.6	65.2

Despite the laudable achievement in prolonging life, still certain specific age groups also need consideration. For instance, in recent years, the incidence of accidents, injury, poisoning and suicide among young women and men have shown a tendency for increase so much so that at ages 15-34 this set of causes contribute the majority of deaths. Also the incidence of non-communicable diseases especially related to heart and the circulatory system has not yet shown any sign of abatement. The increase in longevity has on the whole been more for females than males except that some reversal of trend is noted for ages 45 and over for females in recent period. Also at ages 15-24 female mortality is still high and almost reaches the rates of males. In fact, the life table indicators show that the mortality at adult ages are rather too high and the high level of life expectation is primarily because of the rather low infant and child mortality.

## 2.9 MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

In the past when international migration was an important factor in population change in the country, there was initially a preponderance of males which over the years reduced and a more balanced sex ratio among arrivals was noticed in the later periods. Thus the sex ratio of the population of the country remained quite low. For instance in the Island of Mauritius in 1846 it was 52 and increased slowly to 86 by the turn of the century. Since then a steady increase was noticed and in 1983 for the first time the sex ratio became favourable to females with sex ratio of 100.9. In 1990 it was 100.3. The low sex ratio in the past was also due to highly unfavorable female mortality due to socio-economic and living conditions.

A recent phenomenon is the emigration of Mauritians which has shown a slight excess of females. In addition to international migration, there has been inter district and other kinds of movements and mobility within the country. For instance, between 1972-1983 there was an estimated net 11,450 women who moved from one district to another within the Island of Mauritius. This was slightly higher than the movement of males. In the period 1983-1990, there was a similar movement of 7,595 women within the Republic which was slightly lower than the figure for males. Standardizing the figures for both population at risk and time duration, it was noted that slightly more females moved (2.2 per 1000) than male (2.1 per 1000) per year.

These movements were highest at ages 25-44 and was higher in the later period (around 3.5 per 1000 per year during 1983-90) than in the past (3.0 per 1000 per year during 1972-83).

## 2.10 PROJECTION OF FEMALE POPULATION

For planning and implementation of action programmes on women, it is necessary to have an idea of the future size and structure of the population. For the 20 year period 1993 to 2013, table 2.19 gives the female population in relevant functional ages.

Table 2.19 - Projected resident female population, by age group - 1993 to 2013

Age (Years)	Projection period				
	1993	1998	2003	2008	2013
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>					
0-4	53,231	52,220	48,575	45,265	44,277
5-14	102,268	98,416	104,486	100,229	93,586
15-44	275,938	288,441	288,754	291,921	293,048
45-64	79,594	98,849	120,002	145,757	167,431
65+	36,484	40,275	45,751	50,886	61,018
<b>Total</b>	<b>547,515</b>	<b>578,201</b>	<b>607,568</b>	<b>634,058</b>	<b>659,359</b>
<b>Island of Rodrigues</b>					
0-4	1,815	1,628	1,675	1,688	1,721
5-14	4,632	3,708	3,290	3,195	3,337
15-44	7,850	8,957	9,389	9,619	9,994
45-64	2,171	2,342	2,629	2,972	3,478
65+	836	945	1,152	1,446	1,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,304</b>	<b>17,580</b>	<b>18,135</b>	<b>18,920</b>	<b>20,190</b>

The number of females enumerated in the 1990 census in Republic of Mauritius was 528,900 with sex ratio of 100.2. Under the assumed fertility, mortality and migration conditions the projected female population is as given above which shows that it will increase to 659,359 by 2013. The growth rate is 0.96% per annum. The sex ratio shows an initial decrease up to 1998 but finally increases to 101.7 in 2013 because of initial expected larger emigration of women despite improvements in female life expectation.

In Rodrigues the 1990 census enumerated 17,120 females with sex ratio of 100.2. The projected population indicates that by 2013 it would reach the figure of 20,190 implying an annual growth rate of 0.72%. The sex ratio declines steadily to reach 102.5 in 2013. This is due to the higher improvement in female mortality and would have been more accentuated but for the assumed higher female emigration.

The school age (5-14 years) female population in Republic of Mauritius was 107,083 in 1990 and shows some fluctuations but a decreasing trend is evident because of the expected reduction in fertility. In Rodrigues the trend is downward till 2008 and then there is a slight improvement. The reproductive age group (15-44 years) which was 266,204 in 1990 shows a slow but steady increase such that by 2013 it reaches 293,048 with an annual growth rate of 0.42%. In Rodrigues this age group exhibits still higher growth because of the past higher fertility, so much so that the annual growth rate between 1990 and 2013 is 1.2%. On the other hand, the old age segment in the Republic which was 32,731 in 1990 almost doubled to 61,018 in 2013 with a growth rate of 2.75% per year but in Rodrigues the growth rate is much higher - 3.5%..

## **CHAPTER 3 - YOUTH**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The youth segment of a population constitutes an important asset for future development of any country. For this reason, young people must be given proper education and necessary training for the labour market. They must be constantly kept informed of social development and be warned against the ill effects of certain notorious activities, like early pregnancy, drugs abuse, etc. Necessary policies must be formulated by the relevant authorities for the welfare of the youth to make them become responsible citizens.

The development of any youth policy strategy must start by making an assessment of the "clientèle". How many are they? What are their characteristics? What are their aspirations? Unless and until such questions are properly and adequately answered, no proper strategy will evolve.

This report answers only part of the above questions. It presents an analysis of the 1990 Housing and Population Census data on youth population in the Republic of Mauritius.

Over the last decades, with the sustained socio-economic development of the country, there have been major changes in the needs, demand and aspirations of the youth, which constitute around a fifth of the population of the country. The context in which young people live is rapidly changing. The rapid growth of industries, a later age at marriage, more free interactions of both sexes, a fading influence of the family, the increase of violence and the appearance of AIDS have dwindled the vision of youth to their own role and responsibilities. Young people have different challenges to face and with the increased competitiveness for education, employment and other aspects of life, the task for the young is indeed huge and is a race for survival. Also, with weakened confidence in the society and the crisis of values rendering them more vulnerable to adverse social influences, it is all the more important that action programmes are targeted towards them.

In order to have a clear picture of the situation and to have reliable data on the Mauritian youth, the analysis of the 1990 census data is attempted and is supplemented by other data sources.

The youth is defined by different persons and organizations in the age range 10 to 25 years. Whatever its definition, it is crucial stage in the lifecycle of an individual, where physical and psychosocial changes take place, where the differences between boys and girls are accentuated, where independence from parents is affirmed and more intense relationships with peers develop. It is between these ages that they are called upon to take important decisions in life regarding their education and career. It is also during these years that many things and new experiences are tried for the first time and new patterns of behaviour are formed.

The youths form a distinctive group which represents a significant segment of the population. They are parents of the near future and it is important to prepare them as responsible adults of tomorrow. Investment in this group may have far-reaching effects in the prevention of costly and devastating problems in the future.

In Mauritius, the importance of youth has been recognized and within the Public Sector, the government of Mauritius has a long established Ministry of Youth and Sports whose long term purpose is to provide young people with opportunity to actively participate in organized literary, sporting, cultural, recreational and social activities with a view to enhance their understanding of environmental health issues which affect individual and community well being, provide opportunity to develop a broader range of practical skills and abilities, inculcate socialization skills, initiatives, self-esteem and confidence in coping with inter- personal and social problems and enhance the individual capacity to take responsible decisions in the planning of future welfare.

In Mauritius, a youth is defined as somebody aged between 14 and 25 years. However, in view of the fact that most census figures are tabulated in five years age groups, this analysis will refer to the population aged between 15 and 24 years.

The analysis relates to fields of direct and immediate concern to youth: population composition and change, education, economic activity, family formation and fertility, health, morbidity and mortality and disability.

This present compilation and analysis should be seen as a starting point for more computation, research and analysis of statistics on youth at the national level.

### 3.2 COMPOSITION AND CHANGE OF THE YOUTH POPULATION

As at June 1990, the Republic of Mauritius counted a resident population of 1,056,660 persons, consisting of 527,760 males and 528,900 females. Of this population, 199,866 or 19% were aged between 15 to 24, a figure to be compared with those for developing African countries where it fluctuates between 19% and 20%. For most European countries the rate is inferior to 18%.

While the sex ratio for the total population is 99.8 males to 100 females, within the age group 15 - 24, there was a preponderance of males, giving a sex ratio of 103.5 males to 100 females.

Table 3.1 - Distribution of resident youth population (15 -24) by age and sex - 1990 Census

Age (years)	Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
15	10,332	10,063	20,395	434	452	886
16	9,924	9,775	19,699	408	433	841
17	8,773	8,378	17,151	426	391	817
18	9,045	9,039	18,084	370	357	727
19	9,157	8,727	17,884	369	349	718
20	10,058	9,545	19,603	391	355	746
21	9,197	8,842	18,039	300	283	583
22	10,315	10,049	20,364	326	318	644
23	10,125	9,602	19,727	317	293	610
24	11,089	10,656	21,745	308	295	603
<b>15 - 24</b>	<b>98,015</b>	<b>94,676</b>	<b>192,691</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>3,526</b>	<b>7,175</b>
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>510,676</b>	<b>511,780</b>	<b>1,022,456</b>	<b>17,084</b>	<b>17,120</b>	<b>34,204</b>

In the Island of Mauritius, there were 192,691 young persons aged 15-24 years, accounting for 19% of the total resident population that numbered 1,022,456 in 1990. This represents an average annual decrease of the order of 1.8% in the youth population, which numbered 218,538, that is 22.7% of the total population, in June 1983.



A districtwise analysis (Table 3.2) shows that the percentage of youth population in the various districts varies from 17 (in Plainness Wilhems) to 21 (in Flacq).

In the Island of Rodrigues, 7,175 (or 21%) of the total enumerated population of 34,204 were between 15 and 24 years of age. The past higher level of fertility in Rodrigues accounts for the higher proportion of youth. In Rodrigues also there was a predominance of males ( 3,649 males and 3,526 females with sex ratio of 103.5). When compared with the youth population of 6,863 in 1983, it indicates an average annual increase of only 0.6%. The rather low growth rate is presumably due to migration.

On the whole, the Republic of Mauritius registered a fall in the youth population due to reduction in fertility and perhaps some emigration..

Table 3.2 - Resident youth population (15-24) by geographical district and sex - 1990 Census

District	Male		Female		Both Sexes	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.	% of total
Port Louis	12,150	18.4	11,934	17.8	24,084	18.1
Pamplemousses	10,097	19.7	9,714	19.3	19,811	19.5
Riv. du Rempart	8,990	20.7	8,860	20.4	17,850	20.6
Flacq	12,154	21.6	11,530	20.5	23,684	21.0
Grand Port	10,011	20.7	9,286	19.2	19,297	20.0
Savanne	5,974	19.6	5,746	18.9	11,720	19.3
Plaines Wilhems	27,650	17.3	27,087	16.8	54,737	17.0
Moka	6,587	20.3	6,353	19.4	12,940	19.9
Black River	4,402	20.0	4,166	19.1	8,568	19.6
<b>Island of Mauritius</b>	<b>98,015</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>94,676</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>192,691</b>	<b>18.8</b>
<b>Island of Rodrigues</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>3,526</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>21.0</b>
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>101,664</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>98,202</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>199,866</b>	<b>18.9</b>

### 3.3. FAMILY FORMATION AND FERTILITY

#### 3.3.1 Marital status

Most of the young Mauritians were single and only less than a fifth were married or living in a consensual union. The proportion of married young females was higher than that of males:.

For instance, among the 192,691 young people aged between 15 to 24 years in the Island of Mauritius in 1990, 81% were single, 18% married or in a union and less than 1% widowed, divorced or separated.

Table 3.3 - Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by marital status and sex  
- Island of Mauritius (1983 and 1990)

Marital Status	1983 Census			1990 Census		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Single	93.7	70.0	81.8	93.3	68.3	81.1
Married	6.1	28.5	17.2	6.5	30.6	18.3
Wid./Div./Sep.	0.2	1.5	1.0	0.2	1.1	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The incidence of marriage was higher among females with 31% as compared to a figure of only 7% for males. The proportion of married young people was higher in rural areas (19%) than in urban areas (17%), while the rate of union interruption, through divorce or separation, was the same for both regions, i.e. 0.6%. The percentage of young people living a conjugal life did not differ significantly within the seven rural districts; it ranged from 19% in Moka to 22% in Black River.

Table 3.3 above shows that there has been a slight increase in the proportion of married people within the youth population between 1983 and 1990. This increase is accounted mostly by females, for whom the percentage in a union rose by 2.1 percent points compared to an increase of only 0.4 for males.

In Rodrigues, young people enter in a union at an earlier age than in the Island of Mauritius. For instance in the Island of Rodrigues, about 20% of young people between 15 to 24 years were in a union as against around 18% in Island of Mauritius. The difference is rather pronounced for the male youth, with only 6% male youth married in Island of Mauritius as compared more than 10% in Rodrigues.

### 3.3.2 Household

Out of the total 229,690 private households in the Island of Mauritius, 4,204 or about 2% were headed by a young person between 15 and 24 years of age and nearly 40% of such households were located in urban regions. In 294 ( around 7% ) of these young households,

the head was a woman. Among the total population female headed households were much higher - around 18%.

While the average size of a household was 4.5 for the whole Island of Mauritius, those headed by young persons averaged 3.1 persons. This implies that the fertility of the young heads is rather high. Since fertility among these young persons is not high enough (parity of 0.88), it seems that these households do have other non familial members and indicates that still the hold of extended and joint families is quite strong.

In the Island of Rodrigues, there were 337 households of this type ( 268 male and 69 female ) with an average of 2.9 persons per household compared with an average household size of 4.8 for all households. and indicates that with the higher fertility in Rodrigues most of the young person headed households are nuclear.

### ***3.3.3 Fertility***

The census figures revealed an apparent drop in fertility of young women, the decrease in the Island of Rodrigues being more significant than in the Island of Mauritius. The mean number of children ever born (parity) in 1983 was 0.36 and it fell to 0.30 in 1990. The parity in Rodrigues was 0.44 in 1990 as compared to 0.54 in 1983.

On the other hand, current fertility as measured by births of the past years, indicated an increase in fertility among young adults. For instance, the age specific fertility rate among women of 15 to 24 years old was 84.6 in 1983 as against the rate of 97.0 in 1990. This leads us to conclude that there has been an increase in adolescent fertility in recent years. Even among married women the fertility rate increased by around 7% in the country but there was a decline of around 6% in Rodrigues.

Out of the 30,100 ever-married young women in the Island of Mauritius, 9,264 (31%) had not yet given birth to a child while 1,195 (4%) were already mothers of three children or more. Comparative figures for the Island of Rodrigues were 20% and 10% respectively.

The fertility rate in urban districts was lower than in rural districts. In Port Louis and Plainness Wilhems, the average number of children born alive was 0.25 as compared to an

average of 0.33 for young women of the rural regions. Nearly 4% of young women in both urban and rural areas have given birth to 3 or more children.

### 3.4. EDUCATION

#### 3.4.1 *School attendance*

At the time of the 1990 Census, 98% of all Mauritian youths had either had some schooling in the past or were still at school. This represents a slight improvement over 1983 when the corresponding figure stood at 96%.

The Census enumerated 19% students among the youth population, while 79% had some form of schooling in the past and 2% had never been to school. The corresponding figures for the Island of Rodrigues were 10%, 84% and 6% respectively.

Table 3.4 - Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by school attendance and sex - Island of Mauritius (1983 & 1990)

School attendance	1983 Census			1990 Census		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Never	2.3	3.5	2.9	1.7	1.9	1.8
Now	18.6	16.0	17.3	20.2	18.3	19.3
Past	79.1	80.5	79.8	78.1	79.8	78.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

During the intercensal period, there has been an improvement in school attendance of young people. The percentage who has never attended school fell from 2.9 to 1.8.

Of the 37,188 young people who were still at school in the Island of Mauritius, 228 (1%) were still in primary schools, 4,438 (12%) were reading for lower secondary, 21,048 (57%) were either in forms IV or V and 9,981 (27%) were in Form VI. Besides, 1,200 or 3% were following post secondary education of university or an equivalent level.

The mean age for an H.S.C student was 18.1 years for both sexes, 18.2 years for males and 17.9 years for females.

In the Island of Rodrigues, 7 out of the 738 students (1%) were in primary schools, 724 (98%) in secondary schools. There were 71 students reading for Higher School Certificate.

### **3.4.2 Educational attainment**

Among the 151,904 young people in the Island of Mauritius who had been to school in the past, 45% attended up to primary level only and 5% passed the Certificate of Primary Education. On the other hand, 83,014 young boys and girls followed secondary schooling, and 22% of them (i.e 18,270) achieved their Cambridge School Certificate or General Certificate of Education (Ordinary level) and 10% (8,362) their Cambridge Higher School Certificate or General Certificate of Education (Advanced level). The number of degree or diploma holders amounted to 290. Table 3.5 below shows the educational attainment of the youth population who attended school in the past.

Table 3.5 - Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 who attended school in the past by certificate obtained (1990 Census)

Certificate obtained	Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
C.P.E	4.5	5.9	5.2	5.5	9.9	7.7
S.C/G.C.E 'O'	11.6	12.5	12.0	5.4	5.0	5.2
H.S.C/G.C.E 'A'	5.6	5.4	5.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Degree/Diploma	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	0.0

There has been an improvement not only in the proportion of young people attending school, but also in their educational achievement. For instance, the number of H.S.C holders among this population group rose from 3% in 1983 to 6% in 1990.

In the Island of Rodrigues, out of the 6,014 young people who attended school in the past, 464 achieved C.P.E, 312 obtained their School Certificate or G.C.E (Ordinary level) and 32 their Higher School Certificate or G.C.E (Advanced level). Only one young man was the holder of a university degree or its equivalent.

Apart from academic schooling, 8,316 young people in the Island of Mauritius have followed some sort of vocational or technical training. The main fields of study being:

- Commerce and business administration
- Trade, craft and industrial techniques
- Mathematics and computer science
- Service trades

### ***3.4.3 Ability to read and write***

The Census form included a section on languages and respondents were asked to state the language(s) in which they could, with understanding, both read and write a simple statement in their everyday life. The results show that in the Island of Mauritius 8% males and an equal proportion of females aged between 15 to 24 years could not do so in any language. According to this definition, 86% young males and 87% young females were literate in either a European language only (mostly English or French) or in both a European and an Asian language.

In the Island of Rodrigues, the Census has enumerated 1,228 young males and 906 young females who could not read or write in any language, thus accounting respectively for 34% and 26% illiteracy among the youth of this island.

## **3.5. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Nearly 46% of the youth population of the Island of Mauritius were in employment while 8% were unemployed and looking for work, most of them being first job seekers.

The currently non-active comprised mostly students (21%) and homemakers (23%). It is also to be noted that 2,279 young persons were economically inactive because they had a disability of one form or another, and this represented 1.2% of the total youth population.

The analysis reveals a wide gap between participation rates of males and females in the labour force. In fact, nearly 60% males between 15 and 24 years of age were in employment as compared to only 31% for females.

Table 3.6 - Percentage distribution of population aged 15-24 by activity status  
- Island of Mauritius ( 1983 & 1990)

Activity status	1983 Census			1990 Census		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
<b>Not economically active</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>46.5</b>
Student	17.5	16.0	16.8	21.9	19.2	20.6
Homemaker	0.7	50.9	24.8	2.3	44.2	22.9
Other	1.8	1.1	1.4	4.5	1.5	3.0
<b>Economically active</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>53.5</b>
Employed	47.1	20.1	34.1	59.7	31.3	45.8
Unemployed	32.9	11.9	22.9	11.6	3.8	7.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

More job opportunities have been created for young people between 1983 and 1990. At the 1990 Census, 46% of persons aged between 15 and 24 years were in active employment against 34% in 1983. At the same time, the proportion of this population group who was unemployed and looking for work dropped from 23% to 8%

Of the youth population in employment, 5,439 (6.2%) were self-employed with or without employees (5,070 males and 369 females). At the time of Census, there were another 2,043 young males and 104 young females in apprenticeship. The main industrial group in which the young people were engaged are shown in the table below.

Table 3.7 - Currently employed youth population (15-24) by major industrial division and sex (1990 Census)

Industrial Division	Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Agriculture, fishing	9.7	1.0	6.8	56.0	41.5	52.2
Manufacturing	42.6	73.4	53.0	9.9	14.6	11.1
Construction	13.4	0.3	9.0	9.0	0.1	6.7
Wholesale and Retail	13.5	9.3	12.1	8.4	6.5	7.9
Transport, Storage & Communication	5.3	2.1	4.2	4.4	0.6	3.4
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	2.8	3.7	3.1	0.6	1.5	0.8
Community, Social & Personal Services	11.8	9.8	11.2	7.5	30.5	13.5
Other	0.9	0.4	0.6	4.2	4.7	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

About 47,000 youths, or more than half of the employed youth population, were engaged in the Manufacturing sector, while Wholesale & Retail Trade and Services accounted for 12% and 11% respectively. It is observed that nearly 72% of female youths were involved in manufacturing activities compared to 41% for males.

In the Island of Mauritius, nearly three quarter of female youth in employment were engaged in the Manufacturing sector, compared to 43% for males. This contrasts with employment figures in Rodrigues, where 52% of employed young people were working in the Agricultural sector (56% males and 42% females). This was due to the large number of establishments in the EPZ sector in the Island of Mauritius.

One third of the young people were working as plant and machine operators and assemblers; 25% were craftsmen or related workers while 16% were engaged in elementary occupations. As far as white collar jobs were concerned, 9% were clerks, 3% technicians and associate professionals, while 2% were senior officials, managers or professionals.

Rodriguan youths were mostly involved in elementary occupations (37%), or were skilled agricultural and fishery workers (24%), crafts and related trade workers (16%).

Of the 14,900 unemployed young people in the Island of Mauritius, 38% had not reached the C.P.E level of education, 36% have followed secondary education up to a certain level without having passed the Cambridge School Certificate. About 16% were School Certificate holders, 7% Higher School Certificate holders, while 19 (0.1%) were university graduates or diplomates.

In the Island of Rodrigues, only 25 out of the 496 unemployed (i.e 5%) were holders of Cambridge School Certificate, the rest having achieved a lower educational level. Most of the unemployed youths (90%) were first job seekers.

## **3.6. HEALTH, MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY**

### ***3.6.1 Health***

It is well established that adolescence and youth are relatively disease-free and that morbidity and mortality among young adults are mainly determined by the patterns of



behaviour they adopt. Smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, unprotected sexuality with unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, all these are examples of behaviour rooted health problems of the young.

For instance, a study on youth life style in Mauritius indicated that 15% of the young people were currently smoking, but among the older ages 22-24 years the figure was 44% among males and 4% among females. Again, 49% of those aged 15-24 years were drinking and among them, 13% drank two or more times a day. The food consumed indicated adequacy in terms of energy and protein content, but fat energy was slightly above NCD guidelines and cholesterol content was 198 mg. Salt consumption was also high with total sodium content of 200 % of NCD guidelines. Also the stress on life due to competition in studies and work, the frustration consequent on failures and some general weakening of the family support system in the wake of rapid economic and social changes are some of the causes. Appropriate action and education programmes can alleviate the problems. Even though 86% of youths aged 15-24 years felt that their physical fitness was good or excellent, a majority ( 55%) rated their occupational activity as sedentary. Another study on nutrition and life style indicated that among adults aged 18-24 years only 50% had modest exercise for 2-3 hours per day and 24% of males and 4% of females only were involved in hard work for less than 2 hours and few ( 6% male and 1% female ) did very hard work. On the whole the majority were engaged in lighter activities.

### ***3.6.2 Morbidity and cause of death***

Detailed age data by cause indicate that between age 15-34, a large number of deaths ( about 45% of all deaths in that age group in 1990) are reported due to injury and poisoning. Part of it may be due to road accidents and other accidents due to working conditions but some are also reported as suicides. In fact, the number of suicides and self inflicted injury have increased significantly during the period 1983 to 1990.

### ***3.6.3 Mortality***

Analysis of mortality data both in 1983 and in 1990 indicated that between age 15 and 45, mortality rates are rather too high as compared with younger and older ages. In fact, for

females at the younger reproductive ages the death rates are almost similar to those for males - which are in turn too high under the existing level of life expectation in the country. The explanation for the high mortality is the high incidence of NCD and deaths due to life style and stress. It is concluded that the rather high life expectation is due to significant low mortality at very young ages and several years of life could have been added to the life table if the mortality in the adolescent ages are reduced.

### 3.7. DISABILITY/HANDICAP

Out of the 199,900 young people aged between 15 and 24 years enumerated at the Census in Mauritius, 2,800 (1.4%) were suffering from some form of long-term disability or handicap which limit their participation in individual and/or social activities which are considered normal for their age. The proportion ranged from 1.7% among male to 1.1% among female youths. The handicapped or disabled young persons represented 10% of all handicapped in the Island of Mauritius and 16% in the Island of Rodrigues. The incidence of disability is only around half in this age-group compared with the general population. The most important form of handicap was mental disability - 30% in the Island of Mauritius and 29% in the Island of Rodrigues. Table 3.8 gives details.

Table 3.8 - Distribution of young handicapped (15-24 years) by type of handicap (1990 Census)

Disability/handicap	Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Mental	513	307	820	19	16	35
Partial or total loss of sight even with glasses	220	174	394	4	8	12
Incomplete use of legs/feet	208	107	315	10	5	15
Partial or total loss of speech	95	60	155	8	4	12
Incomplete use of arms/fingers	74	41	115	10	-	10
Slow developmeny	166	139	305	4	4	8
Fits	93	69	162	3	1	4
Other	240	187	427	13	12	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>121</b>

### 3.8. MIGRATION AND MOBILITY AMONG THE YOUTH

The mobility of the youth population is usually more than that of the other age groups because such movements as for social purposes like marriage, economic reasons like looking for jobs and for educational / training opportunities are more specific to the young persons..

In Mauritius, information on migration of youth is limited. Estimates are obtained from sources like passenger traffic for international migration and for internal movements the census question on place of residence 5 years ago provides some direct estimates. However, since tabulation was not presented for the youth population, indirect method of estimating the youth migration is based on the census survival ratio method which pertains to the periods 1972-83 and 1983-90.

The international passenger traffic data for the period 1983-90 showed that there was an annual average out migration of around 2,300 males and 2,800 females . Analysis of age distribution indicated that these emigrants were mostly in the ages 15-29 . The youth population aged 15-24 represented about 50% of total emigrants. Sex ratio of emigrants was around 82 but in the age group 15-19 it was higher at 84. With information available for periods since 1990, it is anticipated that initially there will be an increase in the out migration but during the closing years of the century and later, emigration will play only marginal role in population change in the country. The sex imbalance is expected to continue with more females than males emigrating.

Estimate of net internal migration by census survival ratio method indicated that between 1972 - 83 around 11,227 males and 11,450 females changed residence from one district to another within the Island of Mauritius, giving a net migration rate of 2.1 per 1000 per year for both the sexes. During 1983 - 90, corresponding figures for the Republic were 7,801 males and 7,595 females, giving migration rates of almost the same magnitude ( 2.1 per 1000 per year ) for both the sexes. In other words, the migration tempo remained similar in both periods and for both the sexes.

Among the youth population, the net migration during 1972-83. was 1,201 male and 1,313 female at age 15-19 and 1,247 male and 1,355 female at age 20-24 implying that females moved slightly more than males. Standardizing for duration and population at risk, the migration rates per annum per 1000 was 1.9 for males and 2.1 for females aged 15-19 and 2.1 for male and 2.4 for females aged 20-24. In 1983-90 the corresponding internal movements were: 660 male and 735 female aged 15-19 and 821 male and 927 female aged 20-24 indicating standardized rates of 1.9 for male and 2.2 for female aged 15-19 and 2.2 for male and 2.6 for female aged 20-24. Thus it seems that the tempo of internal migration among the

youth has generally increased. The data also showed that the high age - sex selectivity of the movements continued during 1983-90.

**Table 3.9 - Estimated inter censal migration by district and age-group, 1972 - 1983 and 1983 - 1990**

District Age	P.Louis	Pmousses	R du Remp	Flacq	G.Port	Savanne	P.Wilhems	Moka	B.river	Rodrigues
1972 - 1983										
Male										
0 - 14	-2036	1000	105	36	-202	-422	736	391	392	
15 - 19	-867	381	91	58	-81	-253	197	248	226	
20 - 24	-1007	225	32	-135	25	-105	619	149	197	
25+	-4767	1609	-86	-211	-617	-643	3101	657	957	
Total	-8677	3215	142	-252	-875	-1423	4653	1445	1772	
Female										
0 - 14	-1957	909	177	-16	-237	-367	707	336	447	
15 - 19	-855	416	184	4	-191	-267	265	214	230	
20 - 24	-1001	292	26	-106	-10	-238	639	183	215	
25+	-5390	1895	293	95	-393	-521	2154	850	1017	
Total	-9203	3512	680	-23	-831	-1393	3765	1583	1909	
1983 - 1990										
Male										
0 - 14	-806	592	103	-182	-216	-155	444	63	531	-375
15 - 19	-191	230	59	-20	-42	-51	148	22	199	-356
20 - 24	-252	298	-15	3	-45	-28	143	63	315	-481
25+	-2275	1217	-13	-542	-694	-457	2074	9	1314	-636
Total	-3524	2337	134	-741	-997	-691	2809	157	2359	-1848
Female										
0 - 14	-808	509	163	-166	-102	-199	366	110	500	-372
15 - 19	-195	225	21	-94	-101	-40	229	54	205	-305
20 - 24	-303	442	87	-32	-161	-49	167	43	188	-382
25+	-2549	1236	251	-264	-529	-413	1552	169	1075	-531
Total	-3855	2412	522	-556	-893	-701	2314	376	1968	-1590

The out movements were generally from Port Louis and Savanne to Pamplemousses and Black River during 1972-83 and continued more or less during 1983-90 also. But in 1983-90 a large out migration is also indicated from Rodrigues to Island of Mauritius which was not so prominent in 1972-83. Perhaps the opening up of job opportunities in Island of Mauritius in the latter period may have been responsible. Table 3.9 gives details of inter district migration during 1972-83 and 1983-90.

### **3.9 POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

For effective planning and programme implementation, a projection of the youth population is necessary. Such a projection based on the estimated resident population by sex and age, indicates that the population of the Republic of Mauritius is expected to increase from 1,122,000 in 1995 to 1,312,889 in the year 2015. However, the youth population (15-24) will show an erratic movement; it will increase from 207,000 in 1995 to 210,000 in the year 2000, followed by a drop to reach 194,000 in 2005. From this period, the youth population is expected to rise to 207,000 in 2015. For island of Mauritius, the youth population is projected as 199,000 in 1995, increases to 201,000 in 2000 followed by a drop to reach 187,000 in 2005 and then rises steadily to 200,000 in 2015. For island of Rodrigues, the 1995 youth population of around 8,000 is expected to increase to around 9,000 by 2000 and then more or less decrease to around 6,000 in 2015. Table 3.10 presents projection of the youth population for the period 1995 - 2015.

**Table 3.10 Projection of resident youth population ( 15-24 ) by sex, 1995-2015**

Age	Republic of Mauritius			Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Period</b>	<b>1995</b>								
15-19	56,843	55,578	112,421	54,434	53,218	107,652	2,409	2,360	4,769
20-24	48,410	46,478	94,888	46,551	44,664	91,215	1,859	1,814	3,673
<b>15-24</b>	<b>105,253</b>	<b>102,056</b>	<b>207,309</b>	<b>100,985</b>	<b>97,882</b>	<b>198,867</b>	<b>4,268</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>8,442</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>561,505</b>	<b>560,613</b>	<b>1,122,118</b>	<b>544,185</b>	<b>543,158</b>	<b>1,087,343</b>	<b>17,320</b>	<b>17,455</b>	<b>34,775</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2000</b>								
15-19	51,375	49,275	100,650	49,162	47,005	96,167	2,213	2,270	4,483
20-24	55,650	53,903	109,553	53,481	51,777	105,258	2,169	2,126	4,295
<b>15-24</b>	<b>107,025</b>	<b>103,178</b>	<b>210,203</b>	<b>102,643</b>	<b>98,782</b>	<b>201,425</b>	<b>4,382</b>	<b>4,396</b>	<b>8,778</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>587,795</b>	<b>588,174</b>	<b>1,175,969</b>	<b>570,165</b>	<b>570,365</b>	<b>1,140,530</b>	<b>17,630</b>	<b>17,809</b>	<b>35,439</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2005</b>								
15-19	48,682	46,532	95,214	47,015	44,903	91,918	1,667	1,629	3,296
20-24	50,646	48,410	99,056	48,612	46,318	94,930	2,034	2,092	4,126
<b>15-24</b>	<b>99,328</b>	<b>94,942</b>	<b>194,270</b>	<b>95,627</b>	<b>91,221</b>	<b>186,848</b>	<b>3,701</b>	<b>3,721</b>	<b>7,422</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>611,139</b>	<b>614,606</b>	<b>1,225,745</b>	<b>593,030</b>	<b>596,271</b>	<b>1,189,301</b>	<b>18,109</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>36,444</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2010</b>								
15-19	54,311	52,632	106,943	52,748	51,129	103,877	1,563	1,503	3,066
20-24	48,282	46,107	94,389	46,735	44,595	91,330	1,547	1,512	3,059
<b>15-24</b>	<b>102,593</b>	<b>98,739</b>	<b>201,332</b>	<b>99,483</b>	<b>95,724</b>	<b>195,207</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>6,125</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>631,374</b>	<b>638,458</b>	<b>1,269,832</b>	<b>612,506</b>	<b>619,311</b>	<b>1,231,817</b>	<b>18,868</b>	<b>19,147</b>	<b>38,015</b>
<b>Period</b>	<b>2015</b>								
15-19	50,756	49,202	99,958	49,100	47,575	96,675	1,656	1,627	3,283
20-24	54,153	52,573	106,726	52,593	51,071	103,664	1,560	1,502	3,062
<b>15-24</b>	<b>104,909</b>	<b>101,775</b>	<b>206,684</b>	<b>101,693</b>	<b>98,646</b>	<b>200,339</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>3,129</b>	<b>6,345</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>651,013</b>	<b>661,876</b>	<b>1,312,889</b>	<b>630,936</b>	<b>641,470</b>	<b>1,272,406</b>	<b>20,077</b>	<b>20,406</b>	<b>40,483</b>