

The Paperless Census: a viable option for the CARICOM countries?

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The paper will highlight the sub-regional experience in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in coordinating the conduct of Census by countries and specifically the role of the Regional Statistics Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat. Focus will be on the approaches and experiences by countries in Census Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination. Specifically, decisions by countries relative to the use of scanning in contrast to the use of handheld devices in Census data collection and processing will be explored based on the 2010 Census Round. Given the experience of some countries in the use of electronic data capture in surveys on an experimental basis or otherwise, the paper will explore the conditions under which countries would be in a position to use handheld devices in the 2020 Census Round and in particular the requirements, challenges and opportunities. Factors such as cost, training/skill sets and availability and use of technology will be discussed. Some conclusions would be drawn on the feasibility of a paperless 2020 Census in CARICOM.

Keywords: Conditions, Handheld-devices, feasibility