

Chapter I: INTRODUCTION

The word "STATISTICS" has either been derived from the Latin word 'STATUS' or Italian word 'Statistica' or German word 'STATISTICK'. All these words mean a 'Political State'. In ancient days, It was mainly used by the State or King.

In modern days, the term 'statistics' was first used by 'Gottfried Achenwall' in 1749. He was Professor of Law and Political Science at Göttingen in Germany. He recognized Statistics as a Specialized Branch of human Knowledge. ~~Thus~~ He is accepted as the Father of Statistics.

Meaning and Definitions of Statistics

Statistics can be defined in two senses

- (A) Plural Sense
- (B) Singular Sense

(A) Statistics in Plural Sense

Statistics, in Plural sense means Numerical facts in the form of data. For example, Statistics related to production, employment, National Income, public expenditure etc. are Statistical data as they are used in plural sense.

According to Horace Secrist, "Statistics are aggregates of facts, affected to a marked extent by multiplicity of causes,

(2)

Numerically expressed, enumerated or estimated according to reasonable standards of accuracy, collected in a systematic manner for a predetermined purpose and placed in relation to each other."

According to above definition, following characteristics of Statistics:

- (1) Statistics are aggregates of facts.
- (2) Statistics are numerically expressed.
- (3) Statistics are affected to a marked ~~extent~~ extent by multiplicity of causes.
- (4) Statistics are enumerated or estimated according to reasonable standard of accuracy.
- (5) Statistics should be collected in a systematic manner.
- (6) Statistics should be collected for a predetermined purpose.
- (7) Statistics should be placed in relation to each other.

(B) Statistics in Singular Sense

Statistics, in singular sense means Science of Statistics. It means Statistics is the techniques or Method relating to collection, classification, presentation, analysis and Interpretation of quantitative data.

According to Seligman, Statistics is the Science which deals with the Method of collecting, classifying, presenting, comparing and interpreting Numerical data collected to throw some light on any sphere of enquiry!"

According to above definition the following characteristics of Singular sense

i) Statistics is the techniques of collection of data.

ii) Statistics is the techniques of organisation of data.

iii) Statistics is presentation of data.

iv) Analysis of data

v) Interpretation of data

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Distinction between plural & singular sense of statistics

1) Statistics in plural sense deals with numerical data & information whereas in singular sense, it is a body of various statistical methods.

2) Statistics in plural sense it is a descriptives whereas in singular sense it is an applied science or tool of analysis.

3) Statistics in plural sense, it is the collection of quantitative information whereas in singular sense, it is an operational technique.