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Meaning of Some Words Frequently Used in Statistics

1. Population:

- The totality of statistical information on a particular character, from all members covered by an enquiry, is called population or universe; e.g. population of households, population of educational institutions, population of health institutions in West Bengal.
- 'N' represents the size of population.
- In the perspective of research, population can classify into two groups- target population and accessible population.
- Target population (universe) is the entire group of peoples or objects to which the researcher wishes to generalize the study findings. e.g. All villages of West Bengal.
- Accessible population is the proportion of the population to which the researcher has reasonable access. e.g. Selected villages of west Bengal.

2. Samples:

- The sample is a selected part of the population (people or subject) and used based on the population character.
- In a socio-economic survey covering the inhabitants' villages of Sundarban islands, if the monthly income figures and investigated only selected households of Sundarban islands and average income is estimated, then it is called sample of income.



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3 & 4. Variables and attribute:

- The character of statistical information collected from a group of individual or objects, is of two types – quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative character is technically called variable and qualitative character is attribute.
- The variables are mainly two types- dependent and independent variable.
- Information about the ages of a men, family size, family income, etc is quantitative.
- Religion, mother tongue, etc are qualitative.
- The values of the different variables can measured numerically in suitable units but attribute cannot be measured, but can only be classified under different heads or categories