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**FERTILITY TRANSITION IN SRI LANKA: THE DETERMINANTS AND  
CONSEQUENCES**

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

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The total fertility rate has declined from 5 children per woman in 1963 to 1.9 during 1995-2000. It is also evident that fertility rates have declined in all age groups between 1963 and 2000. A much faster rate of decline is observed among women aged 30 years and over (Table 2). Recent trends indicate that fertility is more concentrated in ages under 30 years which accounts for more that 60 percent of the total fertility rate.

**Table 1. Crude Birth Rate, 1946-2005**

Period	Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	Percentage Change
<b>1946-50</b>	38.9	-
<b>1951-55</b>	38.1	-2.1
<b>1956-60</b>	36.5	-4.2
<b>1961-65</b>	34.3	-6.0
<b>1966-70</b>	31.1	-9.3
<b>1971-75</b>	28.7	-7.7
<b>1976-80</b>	28.1	-2.1
<b>1981-85</b>	26.2	-6.8
<b>1986-90</b>	21.3	-18.7
<b>1991-95</b>	20.0	-5.7
<b>1996-00</b>	17.7	-11.5
<b>2001-05</b>	18.8	+6.2

*Source:* Registrar General's Department

**Table 2. Age-Specific Fertility Rates, 1963-2000**

Age Group	1963	1974	1981	1982-1987*	1988-1993*	1995-2000*	% Change 1963- 2000
<b>15-19</b>	52	31	34	38	35	27	-48.0
<b>20-24</b>	228	146	172	147	110	83	-63.6
<b>25-29</b>	278	161	222	161	134	118	-57.6
<b>30-34</b>	240	158	177	122	104	98	-59.2
<b>35-39</b>	157	126	99	71	54	40	-74.5
<b>40-44</b>	46	43	37	23	14	8	-82.6
<b>45-49</b>	7	6	0	3	4	1	-85.7
<b>TFR</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-62.0</b>

*Source:* Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey 2000 Report, p.66.

\*Excludes the northern and eastern districts of the country.