

ANALYSIS OF A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAS BEEN THE RATE OF POPULATION EXPANSION

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ABSTRACT

In terms of population, only China is ahead of India. India has got only 2.4 per cent of the total land area in the world but is the home of 16.7 per cent of the world's population. In terms of geographical area, Russia, China, Canada, Brazil, America and Australia are larger than India. Thus India is the seventh largest country in the world. China with 20 per cent of the world's population has 7 per cent of the land area in the world. According to the 2001 Census, India's population as on 1 March, 2001 was 102.7 crore comprising of 53.1 crore males and 49.6 crore females. Thus India is the second country in the world to cross the 100 crore mark after China. We discuss below changes in characteristics of India's population over the years. Along with Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, their contribution to the population growth during 1981-91 was about 36 per cent while it was 42 per cent during 1991- 2001. On the other hand, India's population grew by only one per cent during 1991-2001, if the data of other 16 States and Union Territories is seen. Besides, in 1991-2001 as compared to the decade 1981-1991, a decline in absolute growth has been found in as many as 14 States and Union Territories. 39.02 per cent of India's population is found in these 14 States and Union Territories.

KEYWORD: Developing World, Population, Rate, Growth, Economics

INTRODUCTION

During this phase, a definite declining trend of population growth is visible. Total population increased by 34.37 crore during 20 years. But the average annual growth rate had definitely declined to 1.93 per cent in 2001 as against 2.2 per cent in 1981, However, the trend of population explosion still persists even now. As per the Census of India, 2001, the relative share of population of the States and Union Territories to the total population of India is shown in Table 3.1.2, This table also shows the size-wise ranking of population in different States and Union Territories of India for the years 1991 and 2001. According to this table, Uttar Pradesh is the most populous State in India with more than 16.60 crore of population which is more than the population of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Japan and Nigeria, ranking as sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth most populous countries of the world respectively. Table. Also shows that there are nineteen States with more than one crore population. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are such States in which almost half of India's population lives. Rank-wise, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are at the first and the second position respectively, while Bihar stands at the third position in 2001. It had the fifth rank in 1991.

Rank in 2001	States/ Union Territories	Population	Percent to Total Population of India		Rank in 1991
			IV	V	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	Uttar pardesh	16,60,52,859.00	16.17	15.60	1.00
2	Maharashtra	9,67,52,247.00	9.42	9.33	2.00
3	Bihar	8,28,78,796.00	8.07	7.62	5.00
4	West Bengal	8,02,21,171.00	7.81	8.04	3.00
5	Andhra	7,57,27,541.00	7.37	7.86	4.00
6	Tamilnadu	6,21,10,839.00	6.05	6.59	6.00
7	Madhya Pradesh	6,03,85,118.00	5.88	5.74	7.00
8	Rajasthan	5,64,73,122.00	5.50	5.20	9.00
9	Karnataka	5,27,33,958.00	5.14	5.31	8.00
10	Gujarat	5,05,96,992.00	4.93	4.88	10.00
11	Orissa	3,67,06,920.00	3.57	3.74	11.00
12	Kerala	3,18,38,619.00	3.10	3.44	12.00
13	Jharkhand	2,69,09,428.00	2.62	2.58	14.00
14	Asam	2,66,38,407.00	2.59	2.64	13.00
15	Punjab	2,42,89,296.00	2.37	1.95	15.00
16	Haryana	2,10,82,989.00	2.05	2.08	17.00
17	Chhattishgarh	2,07,95,956.00	2.03	1.11	16.00
18	Delhi		1.34	0.92	18.00

		1,37,82,976.00			
19	Jammu & Kashmir	10,06,99,177.00	0.98	0.84	19.00
20	Uttaranchal	84,79,562.00	0.83	0.61	20.00
21	Himachal Pradesh	60,77,248.00	0.59	0.33	21.00
22	Tripura	31,91,168.00	0.31	0.22	22.00
23	Manipur	23,88,634.00	0.23	0.21	23.00
24	Meghalaya	23,06,069.00	0.22	0.14	24.00
25	Nagaland	19,88,636.00	0.19	0.14	25.00
26	Goa	13,43,998.00	0.13	0.10	26.00
27	Arunachal Pradesh	10,91,117.00	0.11	0.10	27.00
28	Pondicherry	9,73,829.00	0.09	0.08	28.00
29	Chandigarh	9,00,914.00	0.09	0.08	30.00
30	Mizoram	8,91,058.00	0.09	0.05	29.00
31	Stkkrn	5,40,493.00	0.09	0.03	31.00
32	Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	3,56,265.00	0.03	0.02	32.00
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	2,20,451.00	0.02	0.02	33.00
34	Damana and Diu*	1,58,059.00	0.02	0.01	34.00
35	Lakshadweep*	60,595.00	0.01	0.01	35.00

Causes of High Birth Rate in India:

Even though the birth rate in India had declined from 41.7 in 1951-60 to 25 per thousand in 1991-2001, it is still very high. There are various social, economic, climatic and religious factors which are responsible for the high

birth rate in the country.

They are explained as under:

1. **Hot Climate:**

India has a hot climate. In such a climate boys and girls get matured for fertility at an early age, the reproductive period of girls begins normally from 11 to 13 years. Consequently, they have a longer fertility period which has a direct relationship with high birth rate.

2. **Universality of Marriage:**

Marriage is universal in India. It is considered a social and religious obligation for the parents to marry their children. Unmarried persons are looked down by the society and universality of marriage results in greater fertility and increasing population.

3. **Early Marriage:**

The average age of marriage among both males and females is very low in India. Naturally, the number of women in the reproductive age is large.

4. **Social Customs and Religious Superstitions:**

Social customs and religious superstitions are also responsible for high birth rate in India. A woman without a child is looked down by the society. Generally, her husband remarries. Moreover, the Hindus believe that everyone must have at least one son otherwise the parents are supposed to be deprived of certain benefits in the next world. Parents having many daughters want to have a male child. This tendency results in high birth rate.

5. **Joint Family System:**

Joint family system is prevalent particularly in rural areas which is also a major cause of high birth rate. In the joint family system, the burden of a child is not borne by the parents but by the head of the family. So the parents do not think about the increasing responsibilities associated with every new born child and beget more and more children.

6. **Rise in Natural Fertility Rate:**

The fertility rate among young married women has been rising gradually in India. This is due to (1) improvement in nutrition and health of couples; (2) the traditional social and religious checks on fertility have been declining; and (3) the duration of breast feeding to infants by mothers has also been reduced. Naturally, a rise in the marital fertility rate results in a high population growth rate.

7. **Low Level of Education:**

Low level of education is a major cause for the fast growth of population. According to the 2001 Census, only 65.38% of India's population was literate, of which female literacy rate was lower than that of males. There is a direct and positive relationship between illiteracy and marital fertility.

Illiterate people do not know the importance of family planning. They consider controlling the birth of a child as a sin, They have no desire to increase their standard of living. So they do not feel the necessity of keeping a small family which leads to high birth rate.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that the country's population growth and poverty is imposing an increasing burden on the country's limited and continually degrading natural resource base. Most of India's poor live in rural areas and are

engaged in agriculture. India's poverty reduction through the anti-poverty and employment generation programmes along with overall economic growth planning efforts has helped to reduce the poverty ratio in the country.

The Family Welfare Programme is a very comprehensive one and aims at achieving a higher end- improving the quality of life.

The modern Family Planning includes:

- (1) The proper spacing and limitation of births
- (2) Advice on sterility
- (3) Education for parenthood
- (4) Sex education¹⁴⁹
- (5) Screening for pathological conditions related to the reproductive system

Genetic counselling

Premarital consultation and examination carrying out pregnancy tests Marriage counselling the preparation of couples for the arrival of their first child.

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