

Present Challenges of India's Population and Development

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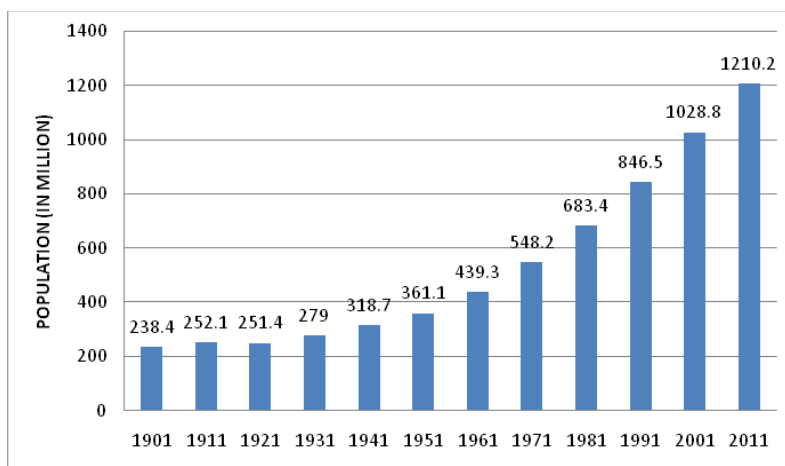
Introduction

India occupies second position in term of population after china. At present, a little more than out of every six persons in the world is from India. It is faced demographic transition phase in present time and has many problems such as poverty, population, hunger, ill health, un-employment and illiteracy. Literary is the key indicator two measure overall development of an area. Population growth of India plays on important role to determinate the demographic behavior concerning marriage pattern, fertility, migration, mortality as well as work force, participation as the lab our force for Indian society.

The increase in population beyond optimum levels trends to generate a whole range of other problems, including the need for more living space, more food and water. The population problem has already greatly altered the environment. It is estimated that the per capital consumption of Natural resources by modern economics remains very high between 45 to 85 tons annually. To meet the demands of an expanding population, there is strong need for a rapid turnover in the agricultural, mining and industrial sectors. This is possible only at the tremendous environmental cost. Man has implicitly reached a stage where natural resources cannot be exploited further. Development has to be achieved without further destruction of the environment. The massive consumption of natural resources a rapidly escalating population growth continues, we would soon overtake china as the most populous nation of the world.

The population of India, at the turn of the twentieth century, was only around 238.4 million. This has increased by more than four times in a period of hundred and ten years to reach 1210.2 million. The population of India as recorded in each decadal census since 1901. Some other indicators of growth rate such as decadal growth rate, change in decadal growth. Each decadal growth rate has been presented in this Bar Graph.

INDIA POPULATION (IN MILLIONS): 1901-2011



Consequences of Rapid Rise Population:

India accounts for a merger 2.4 percent of the world surface area of about 136 million square km. It has 17.5% of the world population. Per capita availability of land the country is about 0.4 hectare as against 4.14 in (USA, 8.43 hectare in USSR. Providing basic human needs for a huge population will continue to remain major task. Infect, much of what the country has accomplished by way of economic development since independence has been negated by population growth. The demand of India's population are out running its natural resources base, which is proof shrinking forests and falling water tables. The International water management Institute estimated that withdrawals of underground water are double the rate of aquifer recharge leading to decline in water table. Thus, there is a chronic shortage of safe drinking water both in rural and urban areas. In 1960, Indian an average of 0.21 hectare of cropland and 1999, the average dropped to 0.01 hectare per person or even less than half as much. It is estimated to shrink still further to a meager 0.07 hectare per person with the rise in population by 2050.

India's urban population is the second largest in the world despite the fact that a little less than three quarters of our population live in rural areas. At the 2011 census, 377,105,760 people of the country's total population lives in urban centers. 830,057,662 people lives in rural areas.

Population growth is seriously threatening the delicate balance between human and their environment. Deforestation, desertification and water scarcity are already having devastating effects. Much of the environmental degradation is the result of the desperate search of poor and the landless for such basic needs as fuel, food and water. many of the problems posed by expanding population are analogous to the problems involved in trying to a accommodate a growing family in a one room house or a small plot.

The percentage decadal growth during 2001-2011 has registered the sharpest decline since independence. For 2001-2011, this decadal growth has become 17.64% a decrease of 3.90% points from 21.54% for the period 1991-2001.

Population Control

India is one among those few countries that quite a long time back realized the need for controlling population with a view to raising the living standard of people. Controlling the family size through the use of contraceptives, improved literacy for women and a shift in the economic structure of the country from agriculture to non-agriculture can substantially slow down the tempo of population growth. Population stabilization requires all round socio-economic development. Family welfare along is not enough. It must be accompanied by economic and social welfare. The experience of the states which have successfully restrained their population growth draw attention to the importance of increased access to Primary healthcare facilities and a wide variety of contraceptives, education (especially for the girl child) and greater autonomy for women.

In subject of population control India needs to expert a much firmer political and social will than has demonstrated so far population stabilization has to have a fresh and concerted look; otherwise, the country would not be able to manage the ever-growing social, political and economic problems. The gigantic task is not to be left to the government alone. We can succeed in this national trial only if voluntary association, community-based organizations. In fact, every concerned citizen join the campaign for a sustainable population that does not strain the limited resources available sat the disposal of the nation.

Conclusion

India's burgeoning population is imposing an increasing burden on the country's limited and continually

degrading natural resources base. The natural resources are under increasing strain, even though the majority of people survive at subsistence level. It will be increasingly difficult to meet the basic needs of a growing population even at present levels of consumptions, and the situation will deteriorate progressively as the per capita consumption of resources mounts.

In facts, population growth is seriously threatening the delicate balance between human and their environment. Deforestation, desertification and water scarcity are already having devastating effects. Much of the environmental degradation is the result of the desperate search of poor and the landless for such basic needs as fuel, food and water. Economics problems and widespread poverty are major consequences of rapid population growth. The rapid growth of population neutralizes the gains of economic development. Many of the problems posed by expanding population are analogous to the problems involved in trying to accommodate a growing family in a one room house or a small plot. The size of earth is fixed and its resources are tapped rapidly while per capita availability decrease proportionately.

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