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### Introduction

It becomes inevitable to discuss about the increasing population when the world population has crossed 7 billion mark and India's population has reached 1.25 billion. The basic responsibility of every Government is to fulfil the basic requirements of its growing population. For this, the country's natural resources assume utmost importance because only with the help of natural resources, economic development becomes possible. Here between population and natural resources, there are two aspects.

(1) As population increases, the limited natural resources depletes fast and in the long run it becomes dangerous for the future generations.

(2) When unskilled population rises, the natural resources will not be utilised in the best possible manner which proves to be a barrier for the economic development of a country.

So, a study of population for an economy becomes very essential. Rise in population is the root cause of most of the problems in an economy.

### 7.1 Meaning of Population Explosion

India's death-rate has fallen rapidly and as against it, birth-rate has not fallen to that extent, which has resulted in rise in net population which is known as population explosion.

Population rise is the most important and biggest reason for the various problems faced by the world. The world has never ever witnessed such a fast rate of growth of population as in the present period and India is not an exception.

Between 1931 and 2011, there has been a continuous rise in population. In the year 1951, population of India was 36.1 crores which has increased to 121.02 crores in the year 2011. i.e. in the span of 60 years population has increased by 84.92 crores and average rate of growth of population was around 2.5 percent. More population and high rate of growth of population along with very high rise in population after 1970 is identified as population explosion.

### 7.2 Population Trends in India

Trends of population in India includes, size of population, population growth rate, birth-rate, death-rate, rural-urban population, proportion of female to male population etc. and their related statistical information alongwith their interpretation and analysis.

The very first population census was conducted in 1871 owing to the initiative of Jamshedji Tata. After that, a systematic census was conducted in 1891 and there after it has been conducted every 10 years. The first census of independent India was conducted in 1951.

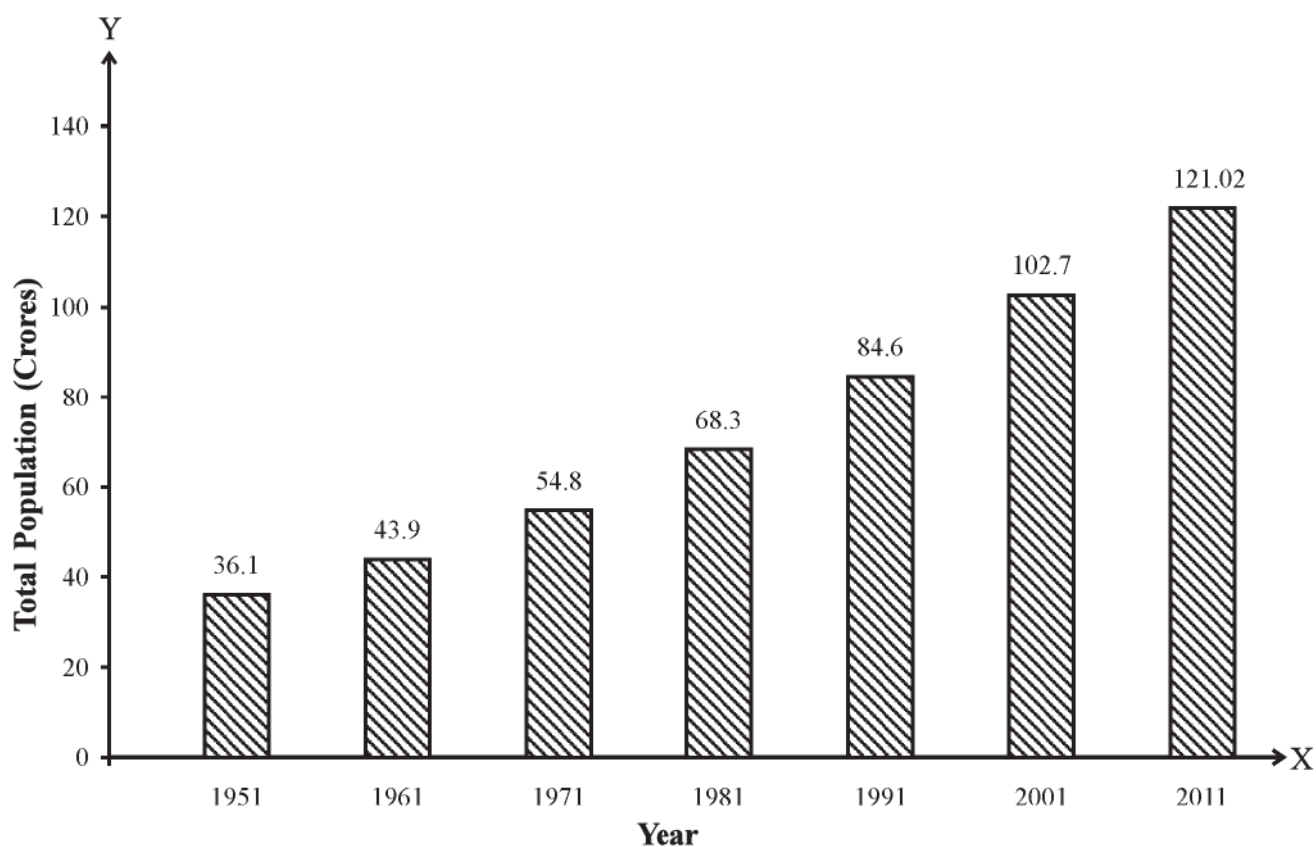
#### 7.2.1 Size and Growth Rate of India's Population

Size of population refers to the total population in India during different periods or the numbers and percentage increase in population is known as population growth. The following table represents size of India's population and its population growth rate.

**Table 7.1 Size of India's population and population growth rate (1901 to 2011)**

Year	Population (In crores)	Average yearly growth rate of population (percent)
1901	23.8	+0.08
1911	25.2	+0.57
1921	25.1	−0.03
1931	27.9	+1.04
1941	31.9	+1.33
1951	36.1	+1.25
1961	43.9	+1.96
1971	54.8	+2.20
1981	68.3	+2.22
1991	84.6	+2.16
2001	102.7	+1.97
2011	121.02	+1.64

**Source :** Census of India, 2011



**Graph 7.1**

**Analysis or Conclusions :**

(1) Between 1901 and 1921, the rate of growth in population was slow. In the decade 1901 to 1911, there was 5.7% increase in total population while in the decade 1911 to 1921, there was a decrease in the rate of population to the extent of  $-0.03$ . The main reason for this decrease is a high death-rate. Frequent occurrence of famines led to various diseases like Cholera, Plague, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Influenza leading to high death-rate.

(2) Except for 1921, the rate of population growth was high, in all the years. Hence the year 1921 was considered as the 'year of great divide'. After 1921, in every decade the population growth-rate has been high.

(3) In 1951, planning started in India : When planning started in 1951, population of India was 36.1 crores which rose to 102.7 crores after 5 decades i.e. in 2001. Thus the registered growth in population was 66.6 crores.

(4) In present times, population of India increases by 170 lakhs every year. Every year, an Australia is added to India's population.

(5) China is the most populated country of the world while India ranks second. In 1911, India's population was 25.2 crores and within one century, in 2011 it rose to 121.02 crores.

Demographers forecasted that by the year 2000, India's population will cross 100 crores mark and it has been proved right. According to World Development Report (1997) India's population

was 93 crores. According to the census of 2011, between 2011 and 2025, the estimated population growth in India will be 139.98 crores.

### 7.2.2 Male and Female Population in India (Gender Distribution of Population in India)

The number of males and females of the total population in different years in India depicts the male-female ratio.

**Table 7.2 Male-Female Ratio in India's Total Population**

Year	Male Population (in crores)	Female Population (in crores)	Total Population (in crores)
1951	18.55 (51.37 %)	17.56 (48.63 %)	36.11 (100 %)
1991	43.92 (51.90 %)	40.71 (48.10 %)	84.63 (100 %)
2011	62.37 (51.54 %)	58.65 (48.46 %)	121.02 (100 %)

**Source :** Census of India 2011

**Note :** Numericals given in the bracket depicts percentage.

#### Analysis and Conclusions :

(1) The consistent increase in the male-female population during the period 1951 to 2011 is a result of a high population growth rate.

(2) If it is presented in percentage, the male population in the total population was 51.37 % in 1951, which rose to 51.54 % in 2011. Thus it shows 0.17 % point rise in male population.

(3) In 1951, female population was 48.63 % which decreased to 48.46 % which depicts – 0.17 %. In comparison to males, decreasing ratio of female population is a matter of concern. This fall in female population is a challenge for the future of our society.

### 7.2.3 Gender Ratio in India (Extent of Female per 1000 Males) :

The number of females in the country per 1000 males is identified as Sex ratio or Gender ratio or female-male ratio.

Gender ratio occupies an important place in the study of population. Falling number of females per 1000 males creates various implications in the country. If there is skewed gender ratio, number of problems arise in the economy regarding marriage, family, reproduction, etc. By getting a clear picture of the gender ratio, it is possible to understand the causes of adversity in gender ratio and efforts can be made to solve the same.

There are various developed countries, where the gender ratio is more i.e. females are more than 1000 for every 1000 males. In India, with the exception of Kerala, all other states have low



female-male ratio. According to 2011 data for every thousand males, there were 1084 females in Kerala. The lowest female population per 1000 males was 879 in Haryana.

It has been found that there are social, cultural, economic factors responsible for the adverse female-male ratio. In Indian Society, the status of women has been low since ancient times. Due attention was not given to nutrition, health, education and overall up bringing of daughters. The Dowry system also contributed towards the neglect of girls. Apart from this, early marriage, frequent child births had adverse effect on the health, leading to high death-rate among minor and adult females. All this leads to low female population as compared to males.

**Table 7.3 Gender Ratio in India**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of females per 1000 males (India)</b>	<b>Number of females per 1000 males (Gujarat)</b>
1901	972	954
1931	950	945
1961	941	940
1991	927	936
2001	933	921
2011	940	918

**Source :** Census of India 2011

#### **Analysis or Conclusions :**

(1) Between 1901 to 1991 for every 1000 males, number of female population has been decreasing. But 2001 to 2011 was a period in which female population per 1000 males increased negligibly, thanks to "Beti Bachao" programme and encouragement given to the birth of girl child.

(2) If we talk about Gujarat, the period between 1901 to 2011 saw a consistent fall in female population per 1000 males, which creates social and cultural implecations. If we discuss the reasons behind this, it can be found out that the craze for or preference for male child and improvement in medical science has encouraged female foeticide. To stop this, the Government has imposed ban on sex detection legally. But its implementation largely has been only on papers. In states, which are economically prosperous like Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, this disparity or imbalance between females and males is more.

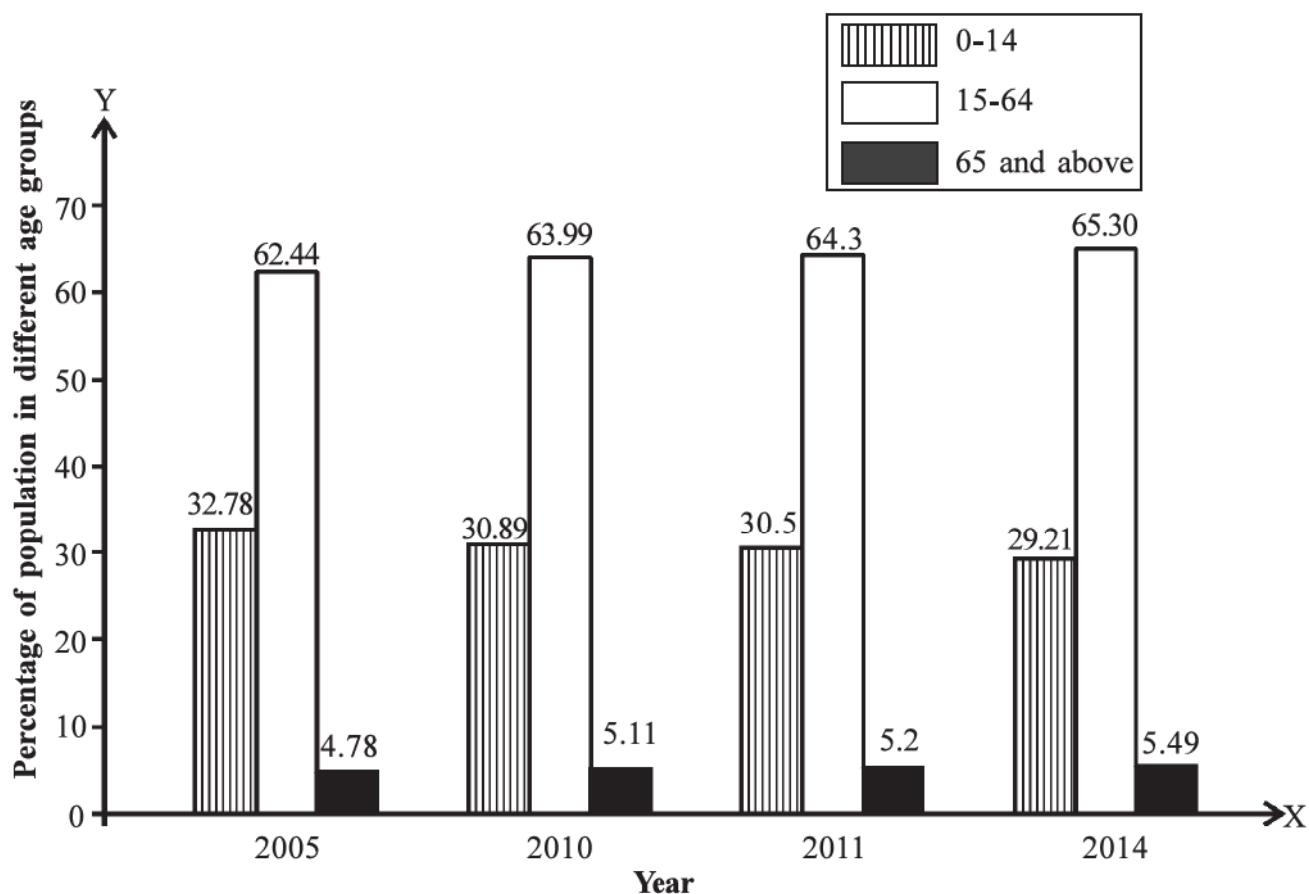
#### **7.2.4 Age-Wise Population in India**

Age-wise population in India refers to the classification of population in different age groups. e.g. the percentage of population in the age group of 0-14. A study of age-wise population helps in understanding aspects like working and nonworking age groups.

**Table 7.4 Age-Wise Population of India**

Age groups (years)	2005	2010	2011	* 2014 estimated
0 - 14	32.78	30.89	30.5	29.21
15 - 64	62.44	63.99	64.3	65.30
65 and above	04.78	05.12	05.2	5.49

**Source :** Census of India, 2011 \*estimated



**Graph 7.2**

**Analysis and Conclusion :**

It is a known fact that changes in death-rate and fertility rate influences the age-wise classification of population which in the long run will affect the family size and the labour market in the future.

(1) In 2005, people in the age group 0-14 was 32.78 percent which reduced to 29.21 % in 2014 which shows a decrease in birth-rate.

(2) In 2005 there were 62.44 % population in the age group to 15 - 64 years which increased to 65.30 %. In this age group, majority of the population are working population. Increase in the working population leads to economic development of the country which is considered to be significant.

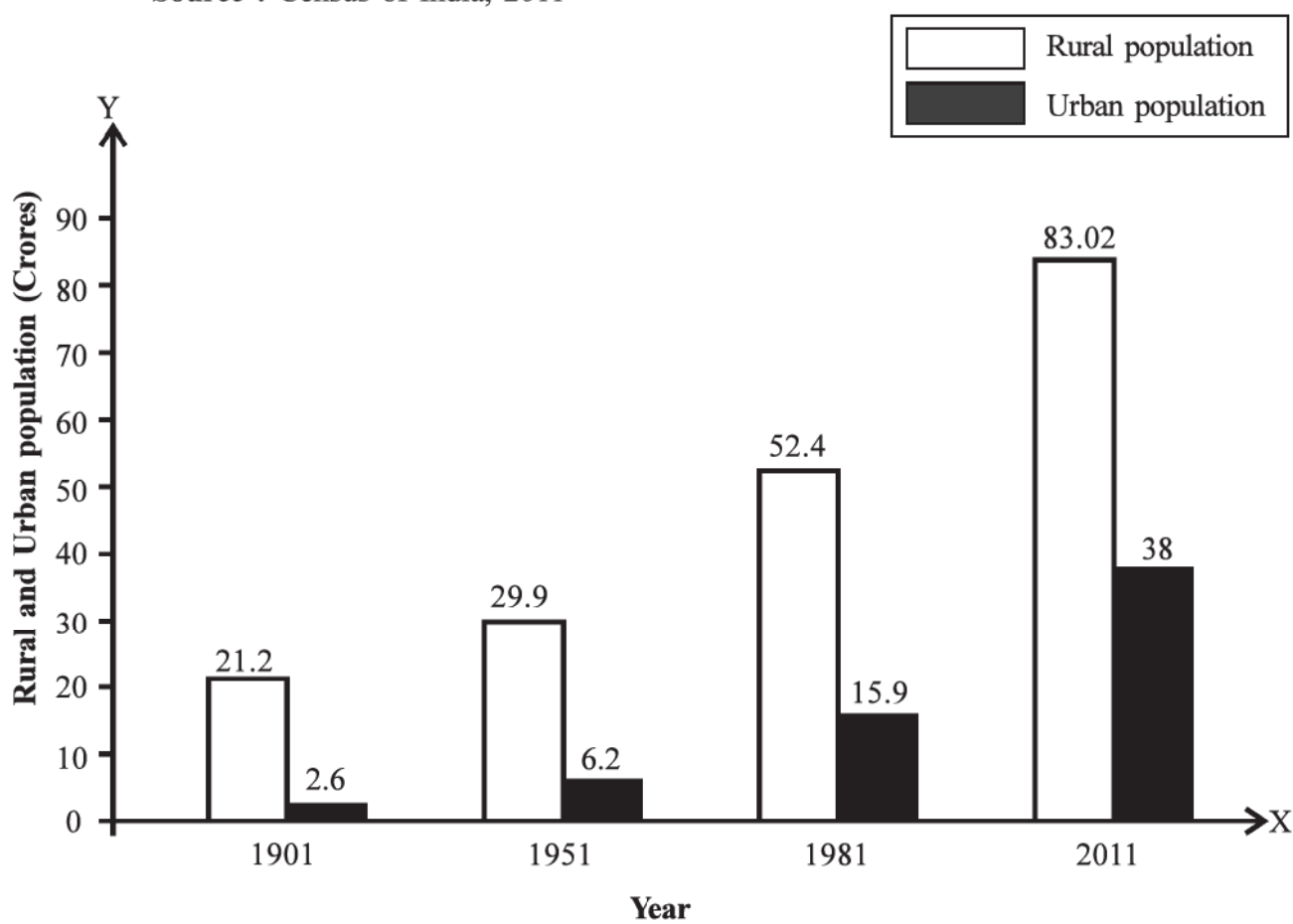
### 7.2.5 Rural and Urban Population in India

Number of people living in rural areas and the number of people living in urban areas constitutes the proportion of rural and urban population. The rural-urban population is influenced by various factors like extent of employment, education, health, social life, quality of life, economic returns, occupation, etc.

**Table 7.5 Rural and Urban Population in India**

Year	Rural population (crores)	Urban population (crores)	Total population (crores)
1901	21.2 (89.1 %)	2.6 (10.9 %)	23.8 (100 %)
1951	29.9 (82.8 %)	6.2 (17.2 %)	36.1 (100 %)
1981	52.4 (76.72 %)	15.9 (23.28 %)	68.3 (100 %)
2011	83.02 (68.0 %)	38.0 (32.0 %)	121.02 (100 %)

**Source :** Census of India, 2011



**Graph 7.3**

### Analysis and Conclusions :

(1) In recent years, the urban population out of the total population is consistently rising. The problems of dirt and squalor arise due to increase in hutments. Administration will prove to be a failure in providing basic services like electricity, transportation, water etc. due to lack of infrastructural facilities. Due to improper waste management, pollution arises. Social evils will occur in the form of crimes, theft, loot, etc.

(2) In 1901, the rural population was 21.2 crores (89.1 %) which was 83.02 crores (68 %) in 2011. But there has been a registered fall in the percentage of rural population. This is because of lack of employment opportunities and the existence of widespread disguised unemployment and under employment in the rural sectors. There are large scale employment opportunities in urban areas leading to migration of people from rural to urban areas.

(3) Urban population was 2.6 crores (10.9 %) in 1901 which rose to 38 crores (32.0 %) in 2011 i.e. in every decade, percentage wise increase has been registered. This is because of availability of various physical facilities in urban areas, like electricity, schools, colleges, theatres, housing, good roads, transportation, communication facilities, cultural and entertainment activities, facilities for good medical treatment, etc. Many people have migrated from rural to urban areas because of abolition of Zamindari system and control of money lenders on business.

### 7.3 Causes of Rapid Increase in Population

There are two factors affecting increase in population : **Birth-rate** and **Death-rate**. The difference between the birth-rate and death-rate is the cause of increase in population. In other words, it can be said that high birth-rate and low death-rate has led to population increase.

**7.3.1 Meaning of Birth-rate :** The birth-rate depicts the number of children born for every 1000 people during the given year.

$$\text{Birth-rate} = \frac{\text{The number of live-births during a given year}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

Birth-rate is not depicted as percentage, but for every 1000 people how much is the addition taking place is shown. On the basis of birth-rate the increase in the population is known and the data on birth-rate helps in deciding the population policy.

**Table 7.6 Extent of birth-rate in India**

Year	Birth-rate (per 1000 persons)
1951	39.9
2011	21.8

**Source :** Census of India, 2011

### Analysis and Conclusions :

(1) In 1951, the extent of birth-rate in India was 39.9 which decreased to 21.8 (39.9 – 21.8 = 18.1 difference) in 2011, which shows a slow reduction in the birth-rate. The main reasons for this, are low level of education, preference for male child, low income levels, etc.



**7.3.2 Meaning of Death-rate :** The death rate depicts the number of people who die per every 1000 people during a given year.

$$\text{Death-rate} = \frac{\text{No. of people who die in a given year}}{\text{Total population}} \times 1000$$

The decrease in population can be understood from the death-rate. The reduction in the total population in a particular manner can be understood by measuring the total number of deaths in a year.

**Table 7.7 : The extent of death-rate in India**

Year	Death-rate (per 1000 persons)
1951	27.4
2011	07.1

**Source :** Census of India, 2011

### **Analysis and Conclusions :**

(1) The death-rate in India in 1951 was 27.4 which fell to 7.1 in 2011 (27.4 – 7.1 = difference 20.3). The fall in death-rate is much higher than the fall in birth-rate. The main causes are control of famines, improvement in quality of life, nutritious food, increase and improvement in medical services, spread of education, improvement in medical science and research in the field of surgery, control of infectious diseases, etc.

**7.3.3 Causes of High Birth-rate :** Causes of high birth-rate in India can be classified under three heads : Social factors, Economic factors and other factors.

#### **7.3.3.1 Social Factors :**

**(1) Universality of Marriage :** In India marriage is a religious ritual. The society doubts an unmarried person. To escape from this, a man and a woman enter, into an institution of marriage. Even disabled people are not exceptions. Compared to advanced countries, in India most women marry. This universality of marriage leads to high birth-rate.

**(2) Early Marriage and Widow Remarriage :** Child marriage is prevalent in many parts of the country despite, laws banning child marriage. As they get married at an early age, their fertility span is very long. This results in the birth of more children.

The widow remarriage act in India which has been supported by many and thus widow remarriage has become common. Therefore it has resulted in high birth-rate.

**(3) Preference for a Male Child :** Indian society is male dominated and more importance is given to sons rather than daughters for the following three reasons :

(1) It is believed that there is a hell named 'poo' and a son's birth can stop them from reaching this hell. (2) For procreation. (3) To support them financially during old age.

Due to these three reasons, families give birth to more children expecting a son and in the process their family size becomes large.

**(4) Joint Family System :** There is the prevalence of joint family system in the rural areas of India. As a result the financial responsibility of the upbringing of a child is distributed among all the family members, hence, a child does not become a burden leading to high birth-rate.

#### **7.3.3.2 Economic Factors :**

**(1) Low Level of Education :** Education and population growth has a complex relationship. This is more so, regarding female education. Inadequate education makes it difficult to understand the need for small families and as a result the family size tends to become large. Education and the number of children in a family have inverse relationship all over the world. It has been found that as compared to illiterate women, the women who have had primary education gives birth to less number of children. This proves true for middle school educated and secondary school educated as against primary school educated women. From this experience, it can be said that the birth-rate is high because of illiteracy and low education.

**(2) Low Level Income :** When the income level of a family is low, the birth of a child is considered to be an asset rather than a burden. It is commonly said, "more the merrier". It is expected that child also contributes to the income of the family in future. Even today we see children working in small eateries or in tea stalls.

**(3) High Infant Mortality Rate :** "Out of every 1000 children born in a given year, the number of child deaths before one year of age is known as infant mortality rate".

**Table 7.8 Extent of Infant Mortality Rate in India**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Infant Mortality Rate (for every 1000 live births)</b>
1951	146
2011	41.40

**Source :** [www.data.worldbank.org](http://www.data.worldbank.org)

The extent of infant mortality rate is quite high in India in comparison to various other developed countries. In India, infant mortality rate in 1951 was 146 which fell to 41.40 in 2011 but still, this rate is considered to be quite high. The main reasons for this high infant mortality rate are poverty, less care given to girl child, lack of nutritious food, frequent abortions among women, age-old practices in the upbringing of a child, inadequate medical facilities, less gap between two children etc. are some of the reasons which leads to a high tendency of birth-rate.

#### **7.3.3.3 Other Factors :**

**(1) High Fertility Rate :** In a given year, out of every 1000 females in the age group of 15-49 years, how many live children are given birth, is what is known as fertility rate. In the Indian population structure, high fertility is a speciality. Let us analyse this speciality with reference to the women in the age group of 15-49 years.

In 1961, the average of women in this age group gave birth to 6 children, fell to 3 in 2011. Still this is considered to be high and 2 reasons can be attributed to this high rate. (1) Early

marriage leads to longer fertility period for women. (2) The proportion of unmarried women in the total number of women in the fertile age group is very low.

**(2) Lack of Family Planning Information :** Family planning refers to decisions on the size of family and maintaining gap between two children based on proper understanding i.e. a planned parenthood. In India, poverty, social customs and religious beliefs combined with low level of education has acted as obstacles to family planning. Moreover, lack of knowledge regarding the instruments of contraception and sometimes scarcity of those leads to high birth-rate.

#### **7.3.4 Causes of Low Death-rate :**

**7.3.4.1 Improvement in Standard of Living :** Standard of living of the people has improved because of the rise in income of the people, due to economic development. People of our country, have now started getting better quality food grains, better housing, health care and education which has led to decrease in death-rate.

**7.3.4.2 Control Over Epidemics :** In the beginning of 20th century, there were life threatening diseases like, Plague, Measles, Tuberculosis, Malaria, etc. which raised the death-rate, but at the end of 20th century, development resulted in extra ordinary progress and innovation of varied immunization vaccines. This resulted in successful control over the aforesaid diseases and death-rate.

**7.3.4.3 Control on Drought :** Science and technology led to control over drought. As a result, the deaths caused by hunger could be stopped. Considerable increase in the supply of food grains was registered after 1966, when green revolution was introduced in India. Food grains can be easily transported from abundant areas to scarce areas and thus we could prevent starvation related deaths.

**7.3.4.4 Protection against Natural Calamities and Transportation Facilities :** Earlier natural calamities like earth quake, Tsunami, landslides, floods, famines, etc. led to high death-rate. If such calamities occur now in any part of the country then immediate relief can be made available by enabling the availability of basic requirements like food grains, medicines, etc. thereby reducing the death-rate.

### **7.4 Measures to Control Population**

#### **7.4.1 Mass Education and Awareness :**

It is necessary to make people realise the importance of small families, to reduce birth-rate. For this it is necessary to propagate and spread education, specially by making society aware through various programmes. Telecast through visual media. In schools and colleges, expert lectures need to be arranged, and awareness can be created through plays, mimes, songs etc. In the year 2000 population policy, emphasis was placed on women upliftment. Demographers believed that education is the best method for population control.

#### **7.4.2 Effectiveness of Family Planning Programme :**

To make family planning programme more effective, alongwith public awareness, family planning services and incentives were also increased. It is essential to create simple, easy and affordable availability of contraceptives. In the population policy of 2000, changes were made in the programmes related to family planning by reducing the importance of sterilisation and emphasis was placed on preventing unwanted pregnancy through preventive methods.



### **7.4.3 Increasing the Age of Marriage and Raising the Status of Women :**

By raising the legal age of marriage particularly for women, reduction in birth-rate can be achieved. As per the population policy of 2000, encouragement was given to raising the age of marriage for women from 18 to 20 years if possible.

If women's status is raised in the society in comparison to men and if equal opportunities are given to in the matters of education and employment, such women will control the family size.

### **7.4.4 Incentives and Disincentives :**

The incentives and disincentives that are offered by the Government, play a very important role in family planning. For instance, those couples who undergo sterilisation are given financial compensation by the Government.

China has adopted disincentives or discouragement to control rising population, in which number of facilities are withdrawn from those couples who have two or more children. But recently some relaxations have been given. In India, in the elections of local self government, couple with more than two children cannot contest in elections.

### **7.4.5 Expansion in Medical Services and its Growing Effectiveness :**

In India death-rate has come down but it is still higher than some of the developed countries. With the help of science, there has been an increase in the services and facilities for child birth and health of the new born. Universalisation and effectiveness of vaccination and to make it effective, awareness regarding communicable diseases like "AIDS", is to be increased; reduction in various infectious diseases and sex related diseases, etc. can bring about a reduction in death-rate and infant mortality rate.

India was the first country in the world to introduce population policy to control population. A committee was set up to frame New Population Policy of 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.

The various measures in the population policy will result in increase in social welfare which in turn will improve awareness against population growth.

### **Exercise**

#### **1. Choose the correct option for the following questions :**

- (1) Who was responsible for the introduction of population census for the first time in India ?  
(a) Jamshedji Tata (b) Swaminathan  
(c) Deendayal Upadhyay (d) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (2) What is the estimated population of India between 2011-2025 ?  
(a) 155 crores (b) 130 crores (c) 139.98 crores (d) 180 crores.
- (3) In which year the first population census was under taken in India ?  
(a) 1901 (b) 1951 (c) 1871 (d) 1921
- (4) How much was India's population in 1901 ?  
(a) 22.2 crores (b) 25.2 crores (c) 102.7 crores (d) 23.8 crores



- (5) How much was India's population in the year 2011?  
 (a) 36.1 crores                      (b) 54.8 crores                      (c) 121.02 crores                      (d) 23.8 crores
- (6) In which year was planning started in India?  
 (a) 1901                                  (b) 1951                                  (c) 1950                                  (d) 2000
- (7) Which country in the world, has the largest population?  
 (a) China                                  (b) India                                  (c) Australia                                  (d) America
- (8) Which state in India has the highest female population per 1000 males?  
 (a) Gujarat                                  (b) Maharashtra                                  (c) Kerala                                  (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (9) How much was the female population per 1000 male population in India in 2011?  
 (a) 930                                  (b) 950                                  (c) 940                                  (d) 970
- (10) What was India's birth-rate in 2011?  
 (a) 21.8                                  (b) 36.8                                  (c) 72.0                                  (d) 23.8

**2. Answer the following questions in one line :**

- (1) What has been the basic cause for all the problems?
- (2) What is meant by working and non working population?
- (3) What was the population growth rate in 2011?
- (4) Where does India stand in the world population order?
- (5) What was the female population per 1000 males in Gujarat in 2011?
- (6) What is meant by classification of population according to age group?
- (7) Which age group has the highest population in India?
- (8) State the percentage of rural urban population in India in the year 2011?
- (9) What is meant by infant mortality rate?

**3. Answer the following questions in brief :**

- (1) Why is the year 1921 identified as the year of 'great divide'?
- (2) What is meant by productive and unproductive population?
- (3) Give the meaning of birth-rate and state the formula to calculate birth-rate.
- (4) Give the meaning of death-rate and state the formula to calculate death-rate.
- (5) Give the meaning of population policy.

**4. Give pin pointed answers for the following questions :**

- (1) Explain population explosion.
- (2) State the causes of low death-rate.

**5. Answer the following questions in detail :**

- (1) Discuss in detail the gender ratio (number of females per 1000 males)

- (2) Discuss in detail the causes for high birth-rate.
- (3) Explain in detail the methods to control population.

### Glossary

<b>Population Explosion</b>	: In India, as the death-rate falls steeply but the birth-rate falls at a slower rate resulting in a steep rise in population is known as population explosion.
<b>Population Trends</b>	: Population trends refer to acquiring data and interpreting important aspects of population like, size, rate of growth of population, birth-rate, death-rate, rural and urban population, female-male ratio etc.
<b>Size of Population</b>	: Population size refers to total population in a country during different years.
<b>Male-Female Ratio</b>	: Female-male ratio refers to number of females and males in the total population of a country in different years.
<b>Gender Ratio</b>	: Gender ratio refers to number of females per 1000 males in a country.
<b>Age-Wise Composition of Population</b>	: Distribution of total population of the country in different age group. e.g. 0-14 years, 15-64 years etc. is known as age composition of population.
<b>Rural and Urban Population</b>	: Out of the total population of a country, how many people live in rural and urban areas, is known as a rural urban population.
<b>Birth-Rate</b>	: In a given year, for every 1000 people, how many children are born refers to birth-rate.
<b>Death-Rate</b>	: In a given year, the number of people who die for every 1000 population is known as death-rate.
<b>Infant Mortality Rate</b>	: Infant mortality rate refers to number of infants who die before completing one year of age in a given year for every 1000 live births.
<b>Population Policy</b>	: The steps taken by the Government to bring the growth rate of population to the required level is known as population policy.
<b>Working Population</b>	: Out of the total population, the number of people, working is known as working population. In other words, the population which contributes to the economic production. e.g. people in the age group 15-64 are included in working population.
<b>Non-Working Population</b>	: Those people who do not contribute anything to the productive activities of the country is known as non working population. e.g. women, children and old people.

