

CHAPTER – 6

POPULATION

The economic development of any country relies mainly on two things—Natural resources and human resources. In fact, it is seen that the human resources or population contributes most significantly in the economic development; because population is not only the means of economic development but it is also the main resource. Human beings make and use resources and are themselves resources with different qualities. In absence of population or human efforts it is not possible to produce economic materials and services. Thus, it can be said that real feature of any country is not in the land or reservoir or mines, animals or wealth but in the healthy and happy male, children and females.

The size and growth of population in India is very alarming. It is termed as 'population explosion'. This population explosion has affected all the developmental programmes. Human being creates and consumes the resources of the earth; therefore, it is essential to know how many people live in a country and what their qualities are? The information related to the population of our country. The information related is based on census of India, 2001.

Children, you are the part of this growing population. Today we will discuss on following three points related to population –

1. Population size and distribution.
2. Population growth and process of population change.
3. Characteristics or Qualities of the Population.

Population size and distribution.

On 1st March, 2001, the population of India was 102 Crore 8 lakh which is

16.7 percent of the world's population. These 103 crore people are unevenly distributed in the India's vast area of 32.8 lakh square km. (2.4 percent land area of the world) (Fig. 6.1).

CENSUS

Official counting of Population after a certain interval of time is called Census. In India the first Census was conducted in 1872. The first complete Census was conducted in 1881. Since then Census is being held after an interval of ten years.

The Census of India is the most comprehensive source of demographic, current facts and economic data.

According to the 2001 census, Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the country, where the total population is 16.60 crores. In Uttar Pradesh reside the 16 percent of the total population of India. On the second position is Maharashtra where the total population is 9.68 crores (9.42

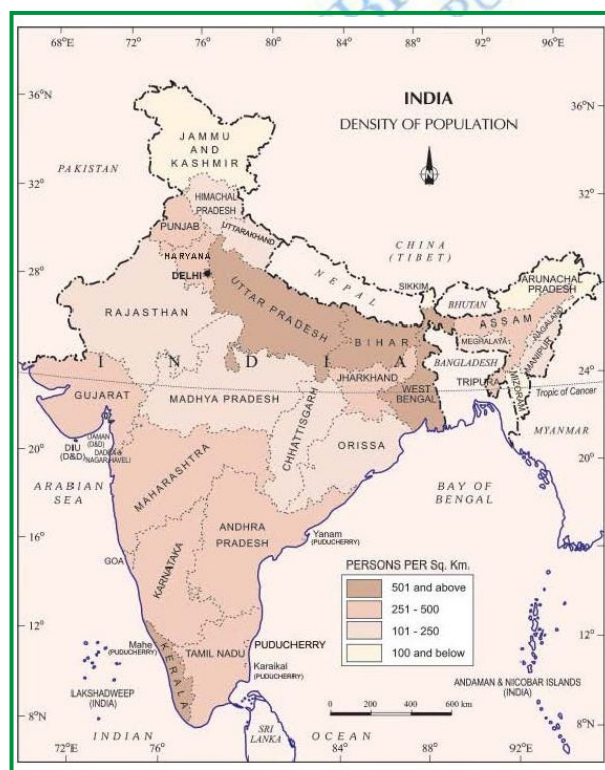


Fig. 6.1 Population density of India (2001)

percent of the total population). On the third position is Bihar with a population of 8.29 crores (8.06 percent of the total population of the country). On the contrary to these large states, the Himalayan state Sikkim has a population of only 5 lakh and only 60 thousand people live in Lakshadweep.

About half of the Indian population lives in only five states of India. These states are – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Rajasthan is the largest state in terms of area, which has 5.5 percent of the total population of India.

FIND OUT

What is the cause of uneven distribution of population in India?

Distribution of population in India on the basis of Density

Population density means population living on per unit area of land. Per square Kilometer has been accepted as a unit for standard measurement by the Census Department of India. From this point of view, the average population density of India, according to the 2001 census of India, is 325 persons per square Km. but it has huge diversity in it. The states in plain areas have maximum population density, Coastal states too have sufficient density but in Mountainous states density is less due to inadequate facility of habitat and economic structure. In Plateau states the situation of density is normal.

Amongst Indian states the maximum density is in West Bengal. On an average 904 persons per square Km. live here. After this, are Bihar (881), and Kerala (819). The least density is that of Arunachal Pradesh, hilly state, where the average density is only 13 persons per square km. If we look at Union Territories collectively then we find that the density in Delhi is maximum. Here, the density is 9340 persons per square km. but least density is in Arunachal Pradesh. Among Union Territories the density of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is only 34 persons per square km.

Because of the fast rate of population growth, there has been quick rise in average population density of India as well. It was only 17 persons per square km. in 1901 which grew to 325 persons per square km. in 2001

FIND OUT

Make a table in which write the name of all the states of India, their total population and density. With its help compare the states with low density and high density.

POPULATION GROWTH

The meaning of population growth is the change in the number of inhabitants of a country or state in any given interval within 10 years. This type of change can be expressed in two ways. First, relative growth and second, grown through percentage change that occurs every year.

The growth of population every year or in a decade is the magnitude of growth in total number. It can be obtained by subtracting earlier population (e.g. population of 1991) from the later population (e.g. population of 2001). It is known as 'Absolute Growth'.

The second aspect of population growth can be expressed in percent per year, for example the meaning of rate of percentage increase per year is the increase of 2 persons on every 100 person in the base population of a given year. It is also called as **annual growth rate**. The Indian population has increased from 3,610 lakhs in 1951 to 10,280 lakhs in 2001. Only in 1921, there has been negative population growth.

Year	Total Population (in lakh)	Relative increase In a decade (in lakh)	Annual growth rate (%)
1951	361.0	42.43	1.25
1961	439.2	78.15	1.96
1971	548.2	108.92	2.20
1981	683.3	135.17	2.22
1991	846.4	163.09	2.14
2001	1028.7	182.32	1.93

Table 6.1 and Fig. 6.2 show that from 1951 to 1981 there has been regular increase in annual population growth rate. This explains the rapid increase in population which reached from 361 lakh in 1951 to 1028.7 lakh in 2001.

FIND OUT

From Table 6.1 it is revealed that in spite of decline in growth rate there has been increase in number of persons in every decade regularly. Why is it happening?

Since 1981, the growth rate is steadily declining. During this period, there has been rapid decline in birth rate, still in 2001 there was a increase of 182 lakh people in total population. Decadal increase of this proportion never happened before.

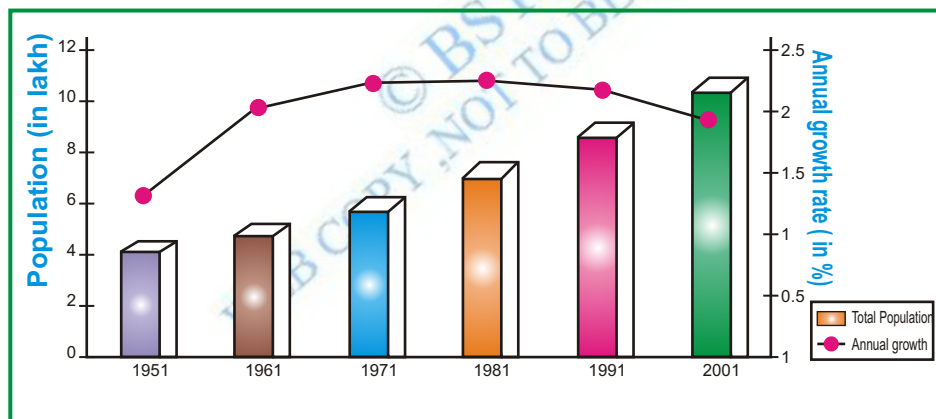


Fig. 6.2 – Total population and population growth 1951 – 2001

It is important to consider that the population of India is very large. The low annual growth rate in large population, yields very high relative growth. Even when in a population of 10 crores the increase is at a very low rate even then the total number of persons added becomes very large. The annual growth rate of present Indian population is 155 lakh which is sufficient to neutralise resources and environment protection.

Decline in growth rate is an indicator of success of the efforts being taken to control birth rate. Despite these, the growth in population continues and by 2045 India may leave China behind to become the most populous country of the world.

There are three main causes of change in population – Birth rate, Death rate and Migration. The difference between death rate and birth rate is the real natural growth of population.

The number of live births of children on every thousand persons in one year is called **Birth rate**. It is a major component of growth because, in India, the birth rate has always remained higher than the death rate.

The number of deaths per thousand persons in a year is called **Death rate**. The rapid decline in death rate has been the main cause of growth rate of the Indian population.

Because of the high birth rate and death rate, by 1980, there was a huge difference between birth rate and death rate and because of this the population growth became explosive. From 1981, there was a gradual decline in birth rate, as a result of which there was also a decline in population growth rate. The main reasons for this change have been the awakening at family, political, administrative and religious levels towards planned family.

Migration is the third component of population growth. The movement of people from one area to another area is called Migration. Migration could be internal (from one place to another place e.g. in flood displaced regions in North Bihar) or interstate (from one state to another state) or international (from one country to another country).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. In the present World, in every 6 persons there is an Indian.
2. In the last ten years (1991 – 2001), there has been an increase of 1.82 crores every year in the population of India.
3. Presently the population of Mumbai metropolis is more than the total population of Australia.
Every minute there is an increase of 29 persons in the total population of India.

Internal migration does not bring any change in the size of the population but it influences the distribution of population within the country. Migration plays an important role in changing the distribution of population and its components.

ACTIVITY

Prepare a table and trace the migration in your family, of your grandparents and parents since their birth. Trace the reasons for each migration.

Most of the internal migration, in India, occurs from rural to urban areas because of the effect of 'push' factor in rural areas. These are adverse conditions, in rural areas, of poverty and unemployment and the 'pull' effect of the urban centers presents increase in employment opportunities and better living standards.

Migration is an important component of population change. It not only affects the size of the population but from the age and gender point of view, it changes the composition of urban and rural population. Due to rural – urban migration in India, the population of towns and cities has been increasing regularly. In 1951, out of the total population, the percentage of urban population was 17.29 percent which increased to 27.78 percent in 2001. Inside one decade (from 1991 to 2001) the number of cities having population above ten lakhs increased from 23 to 35.

SPECIALTIES OF POPULATION

(A) AGE COMPOSITION

From the point of view of age composition, the Indian population has been divided into three categories. They are –

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Children Group | - Age below 15 years |
| 2. Adult Group | - Age between 15 – 59 years |
| 3. Aged Group | - 60 years or more |

We call the adult population group as labourer or working age group and the first and last groups are called dependent population.

India has 36.5 percent population under children group. Under adult group 56.7 percent and the aged group has 6.8 percent population. Due to rapid improvement in the health facilities, rapid growth in the aged

population group is expected. On the contrary the increasing awakening for population control and due to favourable measures of management the children group of population is expected to decline. In labourer or working group due to expected increase in population ratio, new areas of employment will have to be searched otherwise unemployment problem may acquire explosive form.

ACTIVITY

How many children of your locality work as domestic helpers or labourers?

Make a list of educated unemployed in your village or nearby areas.

(B) SEX RATIO

Number of females on every 1000 males is called Sex ratio. This information is an important social indicator to measure the limit of equality between male and female in the society at a given time. The sex ratio, in the country, is not in favour of females. The sex ratio from 1951 to 2001 is shown in Table 6.2.

CENSUS YEAR	SEX RATIO
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	929
2001	933

Table 6.2: Sex ratio in India 1951 - 2001

DO YOU KNOW

In Kerala there are 1058 females on per 1000 males. In Pondicherry 1001 on every 1000 where as in Delhi 821 on every 1000 and in Haryana 861 females on every 1000 males.

(C) LITERACY RATES

Literacy is a very significant resourceful quality of population. It is very obvious that only an educated and informed citizen can take intelligent decisions and can accomplish research and developmental works. Decline in literacy standards is a serious obstacle to economic development.

According to the 2001 census, a person whose age is 7 years and above, and who can write or read with comprehension in any language is bracketed in literate category.

The literacy standard of India is improving steadily. According to 2001 census the literacy rate of India is 64.84 percent. It is 73 percent for males and 53.67 percent for females. Due to traditional beliefs the literacy rate of females is low, but it is improving very quickly.

(D) OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

The percentage progress of economically active population is an important indicator. The distribution of population according to the different occupations is called occupational structure. The occupations are generally classified as primary, secondary and tertiary.

The primary occupation embraces agriculture, animal husbandry, tree plantation, fishing and mining. In secondary activities manufacturing, building and other construction works are included. In tertiary activities transport, communications, commerce, administration and different types of services are included.

Find out

The names of five states with maximum literacy and five with the lowest literacy.

In developed and developing nations the proportion of people working in different activities varies. In developed countries the proportion of people is high in secondary and tertiary activities. In developing nations the proportion of people working in primary activities is more. In India 64 percent of the total population is engaged in agriculture only. The proportion of people engaged in secondary and tertiary activities is 13 and 20 respectively.

(E) HEALTH –

Health accounts for the process of population development being, healthy and effective. In the present condition there has been constant improvement in health indicators. Death rate which was 25 (per thousand) in 1951, reduced to 8.1 (per thousand) in 2001. The life expectancy which was 36.7 years in 1951, increased to 64.6 years in 2001.

Most of the infectious diseases have, almost, been brought under control. Despite important achievements in the field of health, the health level in India is low in comparison to developed countries. The per capita calorie consumption is much below the recommended level and a large portion of our population is affected by malnutrition. Safe drinking water and basic health saving facilities is available to only one - third of the rural population.

Thus, it is essential for India that management of population should be given priorities in national policies. Any nation can change population into resources by bringing improvement in education and health. The proper management of huge youth power, engaged in daily occurring riots, battery and violence, can make them emerge as crown of the future India.

ILL EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH

The explosive growth of population has multi faceted ill effects. There was a huge increase in food grain – production, employment opportunities and industrial structure of India. But despite all these, due to growing population, India could not translate heights of these developments into developed nation. Even today more than half of the children are victim of malnutrition in India. Still the per day food availability is less than 450 grams.

The maximum number of illiterate and unemployed persons in the world is in India. This bunch of illiterates and unemployed is the outcome of explosive population growth of Independent India.

Today also the pressure of population is constantly increasing on agricultural land because maximum population lives in villages. The land is limited but the size of its exploiters has become huge. As a result the pressure of agriculture, pasture and houses can be felt on those lands also which, according to the laws of the nature, were a part of ecological balance. There has been constant reduction in the forest areas, desert regions and wet lands of India. There was a time when Himalayan Mountainous region was a store house of bio – diversity. Today less than 40 percent land has forest cover due to fast growing population, development of tourism, increase in religious travels and increasing development of industries and towns, in the states like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim less than 40 percent land has forest cover. However 60 percent of land should have forest cover.

When the green revolution arrived in the 1960s then modern agriculture developed in Punjab, Haryana and semi arid regions of North Rajasthan. It has made us almost self reliant in the matters of food materials but it has also left behind the challenge of soil pollution and ecological imbalance.

Similarly, due to huge increase in rural population the process of rural – urban migration has become fast. Again due to increasing crowd of rural poor in cities, the development of unofficial system, slums and encroached settlements have spoiled the urban ecosystem. Presently, Mumbai has become the second largest city of the world. Here, on an average 3 – 4 lakh people immigrate from outside and settle here. The basic reason for this is Population explosion.

Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and malnutrition are four such pillars which is the biggest challenge for developing India and its root is based upon the basic structure of population explosion.

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY

Keeping in mind the problems arising from the population explosion, the policy of population control has been adopted since the first five year plan. India is the first country of the world which, during the first five year plan, declared family planning as the government programme. Even today maximum family welfare centers are in India but because of the policy of self

desire of family planning, there has not been much success in the direction of population control.

In 1976 population policy was declared at national level according to which, the minimum marriageable age for boys and girls was fixed at 21 and 18 years respectively. In states like Kerala, indirect effort was made to control population growth by giving priority to literacy, and this achieved a huge success. Keeping this achievement as base, greater importance is being given to indirect programmes from eight five year plan. Under this effort women empowerment, creation of employment opportunity, poverty eradication, policy of encouragement for the people engaged in secondary and tertiary activities and decision of not increasing the seats of Loksabha, Rajyasabha and Vidhansabha on the basis of population till 2026 are proving very effective. It has been made clear in the population policy of 2002 that by 2045 the population of India will become stagnant. The population policy of India, however, is based on the policy of 'Small Family, Happy Family'

EXERCISE QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Which state has maximum literacy rate in India?
(a) West Bengal (b) Maharashtra
(c) Bihar (d) Kerala
2. What is the average age structure of India?
(a) 64.6 years (b) 64.9 years
(c) 81.6 years (d) 70.2 years
3. What is the situation of proportion of women on per 1000 male in 2001 Census?
(a) 927 women (b) 990 women
(c) 933 women (d) 1010 women
4. What is the average per square Km. population density of India?
(a) 318 persons (b) 325 persons

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What was the population of India in 1951?
2. What was the percentage of urban population of India in 2001?
3. What is the proportion of women per 1000 male in Kerala?
4. Describe the literacy rate of India?
5. Explain the specialties of gender ratio of India?
6. What do you understand by Census?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Explain the specialties of population growth of India?
2. Describe the uneven density of population of India?



© BSIPDC
WEB COPY - NOT TO BE PUBLISHED