

Growing Population of India

POINTS TO DEVELOP

Transforming our Huge Population into Human Resource.

Merits/Demerits of a large population.

Impressive GDP growth rate of India.

Identifying areas and developing strategies of put the vast human resource to effective use.

Conclusion.

India is a large nation with a huge population. In terms of population, India is next only to China, which is the most Populated nation in the world. However, considering the rate at which India's population is growing, the day is not far off when India would overtake China. Many social scientists blame India's overgrown population for the country's social and economic backwardness. Their view is that India's huge population is squarely responsible for country's poverty and manifold sufferings its people the endure. It is true, to a great extent, that a nation's large and growing population can hamper its progress and development. But, again, a huge population can prove to be a nation's biggest assent as well.

For the all-round progress of a large nation, it is essential that all its people contribute significantly in diverse areas and sectors of the economy like agriculture, service industry, construction and other industries, to name a few.

The talented and hardworking people of a nation can emerge as a highly competitive human resource. A country marches ahead largely on the strength of its talented, educated and enterprising manpower. Many nations, like Japan and Israel, have proved it time and again. These nations are poor in natural resources: they lack land and other natural resources such as minerals, metals and water, and various sources of energy like natural gas and crude oil. But these nations have showed that the general populace could be turned into a valuable human resource of a nation.

As if taking a cue from some of these small but advanced nations of the world, India, too, has been making the most productive use of its large population. It is quite heartening to note that India, harnessing its huge population most effectively, is emerging as an advanced and economically superior nation of the world. Our present GDP growth rate, impressive by any standards. Further, our

huge population of young people, a majority of whom are hardworking and enterprising, have made India a nation that finds respect worldwide, often evoking the envy of other nations which are under populated, and lack the valuable human resources necessary for taking a nation forward. A few million young people graduate every year in India, a sizeable section of them in professional disciplines. Very few nations of the world can boast of such a feat.

These highly talented and educated people are proving valuable by providing their expertise and technical and non-technical know-how to various industries and avocations, and tremendously adding to the overall growth of India. Incidentally, Indian people have cornered a lucrative share of the worldwide outsourcing business to become a leading player in this industry. India's closest competitors like the Philippines and South Africa- arguably technically at par with India- are way behind India, as they lack the large human resource that India boasts of.

We, however, have to excel in many fields by making the most imaginative use of our large human resource. It is distressing to note that even after more than five decades of gaining independence from the British yoke, India is not self-sufficient in food production. Apart from lack of technical expertise in agriculture and paucity of funds needed for promoting agriculture using scientific methods on a large scale, our people residing in villages and engaged in the agriculture profession are also to be blamed. Their overall inefficiency and inability to put to good use the available modern methods and techniques have led to poor agricultural yield time and again. The situation is more or less similar in some other fields as well. If this huge rural population was suitably educated, trained and equipped in agricultural knowhow, the nation would achieve excellence in agriculture of an unforeseen kind. When the technical finesse and hard work of a small section of the population has earned India the status of a software giant, imagine what it can achieve if its entire population is turned into a valuable human resource! For this to happen, first of all, primary education would have to be given the kind of importance that in the fitness of things it deserves, as in India, a good percentage of the people remain uneducated. Secondly, greater efforts must be made to end discrimination on the basis of religion, sex, caste and community as it makes the discriminated lot of the society unable to perform quality productive work. Last but not least, the government must realize that people are the biggest assets of a nation and provide suitable opportunities to them for turning them into valuable assets. Even though lately, some efforts are being made in this direction, a lot more still needs to be done. For starters, by emphasizing more on vocational and technical education, Indian could turn our educated people into a more productive human resource. The effort in general

requires identification of areas and developing strategies and skill to put the cast human resource we possess to effective use. This way the burden on the economy will ease and the nation will have significant role to play in the nation-building process.