



Population Growth Effect: Our Life, Challenges and Suggestions

Dr. PURUSHOTAM KUMAR

+2 SCHOOL TEACHER (GEOGRAPHY- UGC NET)

+2 SARVODAY HIGH SCHOOL, MAKHDUMPUR, TEKARI, GAYA, BIHAR (India)

ABSTRACT

India became only the second country in the world after China to cross the one billion mark. The population of the country rose by 21.34 % in 1991-2001, "Population in itself is NOT the problem. Lack of basic education and poor economic conditions are the main factor for growth of population. The fast rate of growth of population has affected the quality of life of the people. The time has come when future citizens while in educational institutions should understand various issues related to the population problem. "The birth rate in India (31 per thousand people) is greater than that of China (20 per thousand people). If this trend continues, India will beat up China by 2025.A.D.

Keywords

Education Population Growth Economic conditions

INTRODUCTION

In initial stages of human history as well as pre-history, the human population grew at a snail's speed till 17th century (i.e..002% per year) with advancement in science, agriculture and industry the population growth began to accelerate. It took mankind more than a million years to reach the first billion around the year 1800. By the year 1900, a second billion was added and the twentieth century has added another 3.7 billion. The present world population is estimated at 6.8 billion. Every four days the world population increases by one million. India, the largest democratic country in the world covers 2.4% of the total land of the world and 16% of the total world.



Population inhabits in it. Every year about 1.6 crores persons are added to its population. According to the United Nations Fund on Population Activities (UNFPA) the world population increases by about 78 crores every year, India contributes about one-fifth of this growth. According to 2011 census, India now has a population of 1.2 billion comprising 624 million males and 587 million females. This is an increase of 181 million people since the census 2001 which is nearly equivalent to the population of Brazil.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to know about the hypothesis i.e. how do human resources make an impact on economic development of the country.

HYPOTHESIS OF STUDY

Hypothesis taken in this study are:

1. Population is growing rapidly in India.
2. Increasing population is constraint for development.

CHALLENGES BEFORE INDIAN ECONOMY

1. Overuse of Natural Resources:

Rapid population growth tends to overuse the country's natural resources. This is particularly the case where the majority of people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. With rapidly increasing population, agricultural holding become smaller and unremunerated to cultivate. There is no possibility of increasing farm production through the use of new land. Consequently, many households continue to live in poverty

2. Per Capita Income

The effect of population growth on per capita income is unfavorable. The growth of population tends to retard the per capita income in three ways-



- ✓ It increases the pressure of population on land.
- ✓ It leads to increase in costs of consumption goods because of the scarcity of the co-operant factor to increase their supplies.
- ✓ It leads to a decline in the accumulation of capital because with increase in family members, expenses increase. These adverse effects of population growth on per capita income operate more severely if the percentage of children in total population is high. Therefore, a large number of children in the population entail a heavy burden on the economy, because these children simply consume and don't add to the national product.

3. Agricultural Development

In under-developed countries like India, people mostly live in rural areas. Agriculture is their main occupation. So with population growth the land man ratio is distributed. Pressure of population on land rises because land supply is inelastic. It adds to disguised unemployment and reduces per capita productivity further. As the number of landless worker increases, their wages fall. Thus, low per capita, productivity reduces the propensity to save and invest. As a result, the use of improved technology and other improvements on land are not possible.

4. Capital Formation

Growth of population retards capital formation. As population increases, per capita available income declines. People are required to feed more children with the same income. It means more expenditure on consumption and a further fall in already low savings and consequently in the level of investment. Further, a rapidly growing population by losing incomes, savings and investment compels the people to use a low level of technology which further retards capital formation.

5. Employment

A rapidly increasing population plunges the economy into mass unemployment and under-



employment. As population increases, the proportion of workers to total population rises. But in the absence of complementary resources, it is not possible to expand jobs. The result is that with the rise in labor force, unemployment and under-employment increases. A rapidly increasing population reduces income, savings and investment. Thus, capital formation is retarded and job opportunities are reduced, thereby increasing unemployment. Moreover, as the labor force increases in relation to land, capital and other resources, complementary factors available per workers' decline. As a result, unemployment increases.

6. Environment

Rapid population growth leads to environmental damage. Scarcity of land due to rapidly increasing population pushes large number of people to ecologically sensitive areas such as hillsides and tropical forests. It leads to over grazing and cutting of forests for cultivation leading to severe environmental damage. Moreover, the pressure of rapid growth of population forces people to obtain more food for themselves and their livestock.

7. Social Infrastructure

Rapidly growing population necessitates large investments in social infrastructure and diverts resources from directly productive assets. Due to scarcity of resources, it is not possible to provide educational, health, medical, transport and housing facilities to the entire population. There is over-crowding everywhere. As a result, the quality of these services goes down. To provide these social infrastructures requires huge investment.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTROL POPULATION EXPLOSION

Problem of Population is getting serious day by day. It is a serious problem to Indian economy and human Population control is a measure to control increasing population in India. It is necessary to take right steps to control the birth rate so that Government can improve people live by giving them proper education, medical facilities and by giving them proper knowledge on reproduction. Many population control methods are being use today some ethical and some



unethical ones like contraception, abortion, infanticide, sterilization, etc. A Fact: India's population has reached a whopping 1.2Billion.

1. Legislation

Government of India has made many laws regarding raising the minimum age of female's marriage, education up to high secondary, abolition of child labour and others. Family Planning is also a measure made by Government and Government should take strict steps and make laws against the people who do not follow.

2. Publicity

The publicity of Family planning measure and population control method should be widespread so that it reaches the people of rural areas. People will get to know about it from T.V, Newspapers, and Radio. They should understand that family planning measure is not bad and small family is a happy family.

3. Incentives

The government should give money, incentives and awards to people for adopting and promoting family planning measures. This will help in promoting this measure, more and more people will adopt family planning and birth rate will get reduce.

4. Family Planning Facilities

Family planning facilities and centers are set up only at urban or semi-urban areas. The poor people of rural area are not aware about family planning plans, which are increasing the birth rate. So Government should take steps in promoting the family planning measures and set up family planning centers in rural areas so that people get aware and help in reducing the birth rate.



5. Women Education and Employment

In India, women are not so educated and have less opportunity for employment. Government should make more plans and take effective steps to promote women education and create opportunities for employment so that women themselves understand the worse effect of population and help in controlling it.

6. Spread of Education

Most of the population in India is illiterate. They are not aware of the worse effects of the increase rate of Population and think children are the gift of God. An educated and employed man understands the value of small family. So Education should be given in every big or small areas of India to control the population.

7. Lowering Infant Mortality Rate

In India, Infant Mortality Rate is about 72 per thousand. Poor People have more children as they think their children will survive and will earn and it also causes child labor in our country. The proper precautions and medical facilities should be provided to reduce infant mortality rate.

8. Late Marriage

In India, girls get marry at an early age which is increasing the birth rate as they get long time to produce children. If we increase the minimum age of girl marriage from 16 to 20, much of the problem will get control itself.

9. Urbanization and Industrialization

In India, Joint families are at high rate which is a big reason behind the increase of birth rate. Everyone should promote the nuclear family system. Mostly nuclear families are found in industry or metropolitan areas where people are educated and earning at high rate. We should make great contribution to make our economy and culture educated.



10. Increase in Income

To control the population rate, the best method is to increase the income rate. In many countries, this method is being used and results in low birth rate. When people get high income, they do not desire for more children as they are earning high, so they don't feel the need of depending on their children. Increase in income will give a secure and positive feeling in Indian's and birth rate will get reduce positively.

CONCLUSION

The above analysis shows that high growth rate of population has slowed down the pace of economic development in the developing countries. On the basis of above argument my hypothesis holds true that population growth is constraint for development. It is found that the fast increasing population makes the task of absorbing the labor force in productive activities all the more difficult. So large increase in population is more a liability than an asset in the developing countries. It has also been also examined that increasing demand for agricultural land, firewood, dwelling units' etc. results in deforestation which adversely affects soil fertility, causes floods and affects the climate. It can be concluded large size of population and its fast rate of growth increases the consumption needs. This increases consumption expenditure. So saving rate and capital formation does not increase much. A part of resources mobilized by such economies are eaten away by fast growing population. Despite this conclusion I want to express that the correlation between population growth and economic development could be favorable only when increasing population is proportionate to resources available in country and resources are to be exploited in its full capacity, in effective and efficient manner by the skillful, talented human resources in the countries like India.



REFERENCES

- [1] World Population Prospects : The 2010 Volume II: Demographic profiles, UNDESA/Population Division
- [2] Provisional Population Totals , Paper 1 of 2011 India Series 1, Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
- [3] Issues of Data Requirements in the context of the Demographic Transition in India- Prof P M Kulkarni, CSRD,SSS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (for Sources of Demographic data and their limitations)
- [4] Anoop Kumar-Report of the Committee on India Vision 2020 2. Report on Indian Urban Infrastructure and Services March 2013. Economic Survey of India 2014. Indian Economy Since Independence 19th ed. Editor: Uma Kapila
- [5] Agarwal, S.N.- India's Population Problems, 1974. 2- Jhingan, M.L. – Demography, Vrinda Publications (P) Ltd. 3- Mamoria, C.B.- Growth of Population in India. JOURNAL Pratiyogita
- [6] Darpan- Indian Economy. PUBLISHED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT- Indian Census 2001 and 2011.