
ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION GROWTH AND INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH RESPECT TO POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, RESOURCE SCARCITY, AND INEQUALITY**Dr. Ganesh Pawar, Dr. Raghwendra Waghmare**

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ABSTRACT

Every year, 83 million more individuals join the world's population, while 57 billionaires own 70% of the wealth in each country. The medium-variant estimate states that the world's population will be 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100. The working and middle classes suffer as a result of population growth's detrimental effects on the economy, which include rising expenses and declining savings. In addition to contributing to unemployment, food shortages, low per capita income, issues with capital formation, high levels of pressure, social problems, economic insecurity, social insecurity, increased environmental pressure, and societal instability, overpopulation is a major cause of poverty in developing nations. India's growing population has led to overuse and loss of arable land, as well as poverty, crime, pollution, political unrest, and overcrowding. This paper presents a theoretical evaluation of the process of population growth and Indian economic development in order to promote human flourishing in a globalized society.

India is facing several significant problems, one of which is overcrowding, which has subsided as a consequence of government efforts. To make the most of the available resources and turn the country's human resources into invaluable assets, strict laws and regulations must be put in place to handle this. This research is descriptive and theoretically based, and it uses secondary sources that contain facts and information relevant to the study's subject. It is a descriptive and diagnostic design from a theoretical standpoint. In order to promote human flourishing in a globalised society, this article analyses population increase and Indian economic development. This study tries to assess the population increase and Indian economic development processes in relation to poverty, inequality, resource scarcity, and unemployment.

KEYWORDS: Population, income, population growth, overcrowding, joblessness, economic insecurity, social insecurity, poverty, and societal instability.

According to the latest projections, the world's population is growing by 83 million people year. India's overpopulation has reached its limit. Seventy percent of India's wealth is controlled by 57 billionaires. Poor living conditions, poverty, lack of social security, and access to free healthcare are only a few of the detrimental consequences of economic disparity. Even if fertility rates continue to fall, the medium-variant estimate predicts that there will be 8.6 billion people on the planet in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100. The world's population is growing at an accelerating rate, which concerns all countries. The depletion of natural resources is putting them at risk of extinction. Given the current population boom, it is imperative to develop legislation, initiatives, and awareness campaigns that can aid in resolving the significant problem of population explosion. One of the problems facing emerging and impoverished countries is the growing population. Population expansion has a detrimental effect on the economy. Prices are rising, which lowers savings and raises the possibility of financial difficulties for middle-class and working-class people.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

People in poor nations are compelled to live in substandard conditions without access to clean water or enough food. Unemployment, food shortages, poor per capita income, issues with capital creation, high pressure, social issues, economic insecurity, social insecurity, increased pressure on the environment, and societal instability are all caused by overpopulation. A large population has also resulted in problems with food security and safety. The nation's resources are finite and steadily running out, despite the rising demand for commodities. A increasing

population will stress food poverty and increase the effects of climate change. Malnutrition is impacted by climate change in many different ways. The size, composition, organisation, distribution, and movement of a population can promote or retard the pace of economic growth. In order to maintain economic growth, a developed nation with low population density and a low proportion of employable individuals must see an increase in population. Population expansion that is too rapid and excessive would put a pressure on the environment and cause malnutrition, illnesses, and even death.

The terrestrial ecology is impacted by the increasing human population in a number of ways, including: increasing the ecosystem's resource exploitation. These resources include fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas as well as minerals, plants, water, and wildlife, especially in the oceans. Rapid growth and unchecked urbanization have led to political instability, pollution, crime, overpopulation, and poverty. Rapid expansion has outpaced increases in food production, and population pressure has led to the overuse and loss of arable land. They have not been able to get work in industry. In urban regions, the unemployed either perform temporary jobs or irregular hours. They lack job security or have inadequate skills. This is how poverty increased as a result of a growing population without access to good jobs or education. However, the limited resources are putting strain on the economy. A larger population leads to higher resource utilization. The government is overburdened as a result, and not everyone can use the resources. Population growth hinders economic progress because it never keeps up with advances in food availability. Advertisements: In actuality, population growth is outpacing economic growth, which hinders economic growth. Infrastructure and basic services may deteriorate as a result of a population drop that sets off a prolonged recession.

THE STUDY'S METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive and has theoretical foundations. This research offers a well-organized examination of theories and points of view. This kind of research involves conceptualising and explaining how a subject and its surroundings work, as well as investigating or modelling the impacts of those requirements. It exclusively uses secondary sources that contain data and information relevant to the study's problem. It is a descriptive and diagnostic design from a theoretical standpoint. The compilation of secondary data involves using a variety of reports, both published and unpublished. In addition, a thorough review of the literature in the pertinent fields was carried out with the aid of the libraries of the University of Madras, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Connemara Public Library, Higher Education Department of India and Tamil Nadu, Directorate of Census Operations, Vellore Central Library, and Thiruvalluvar University Library.

RESEARCH ARTICLE OBJECTIVE

The overarching objective of this study article is to analyse theoretical aspects of population growth and Indian economic development with reference to unemployment, resource scarcity, inequality, and poverty in order to enhance human growth in the globalised world with the assistance of secondary sources of information and statistical data.

INDIA'S POPULATION

India has 1,414,792,391 people, according to Worldometer's analysis of the most latest United Nations data from 2023. At the midway point of the year, India's population is predicted by the UN to be 1,380,004,385. India's population accounts for 17.7% of the world's total population. India is the second most populous country in the world (including dependent territories). India has 464 people per square kilometer. The land's entire area is 2,973,190 Km² (1,147,955 sq. miles). Cities are home to 35.0% of the population (483,098,640 in 2020). The median age in India is 28.4 years old. The population of a country is viewed as both a resource and a drawback. The population of the nation has a significant impact on its economic development. India has suffered due to its growing population.

Some Indian metropolises have incredibly high population densities. Compared to the rest of India, Mumbai has a comparatively high population density of 21,000 persons per square kilometer. India's megacities have an extremely high population density, with 11 of them housing more than three million people and 46 of them housing more than a million. The top three cities in the nation—Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore—have a combined population of almost

8 million. India is home to more than a billion people, many of whom live in abject poverty due to a lack of adequate clothing, food, and housing. In the aforementioned situations, it is imperative to manage the current population in order to better the welfare of the populace and establish a higher quality of life for the nation's future generations.

INDIA'S POPULATION EXPANSION

According to the United Nations, India will surpass China as the most populous nation in 2023. However, according to government statistics, India's population has grown by 1.2% year on average since 2011 as opposed to 1.7% over the previous ten years. The population of India is expected to increase from 1.417 billion in 2022 to 1.515 billion in 2030. In contrast, it is anticipated that over the same time period, China's population will slightly decrease from 1.426 billion to 1.416 billion. India's vast population is mostly due to its youthful population. Nearly half of India's population, or 650 million people, are under the age of 25. Expect more slowing in the future.

❖ Higher birth rate and low death rate

In India, there will be 24.02 million births in 2021. That works out to 65,797 every day, which ranks first. In 1000 people, there are 17.23 births on average. In India, there will be 10.23 million fatalities in 2021. Poor reproductive, birthing, and birth control knowledge are all consequences of illiteracy, particularly among rural populations. Religious and traditional beliefs and practises: Many people view children as both a divine blessing and a sign of good fortune. The prevention of diseases, urbanisation of the population, dissemination of education, late marriage, prevention of famine, modification of behaviour, and decrease in social ills are the most significant details in this text. There has been a decrease in the death rate as a result of the effective containment of epidemics like the plague, small pox, TB, and malaria. The population's shift toward urban areas has improved sanitation, cleanliness, and

❖ An early marriage

Child marriage, which is defined as the union of a girl or boy before the age of 18, has been prevalent in India from ancient times. All marriages between minors that are solemnised in accordance with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, are void. Despite this, child marriage is still prevalent across the country, with the highest rates occurring in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh. Due to the high fertility and unintended pregnancies that young brides are likely to experience, this has serious consequences for population management. As women who marry young tend to have children at a young age and bear more children overall, child marriage helps to increase fertility. Due to outdated cultural and traditional conventions, children are compelled to marry at a very young age. Birth rates rise as a result of this. This practise is still common in India's rural areas, which has caused a sharp rise in the population there. It is important to note that rising the average age of marriage will aid in lowering the birth rate and reducing the population growth.

❖ Excessive illiteracy rate

India has a complicated network of social and economic divisions that contribute to the country's high rate of illiteracy. In India, illiteracy is a result of economic inequality, gender, caste, and technological hurdles. The most prevalent causes of adult illiteracy, according to the Literacy Foundation, include having parents with limited education, a lack of books at home and a lack of reading stimulation as a child, dropping out of school, challenging living conditions, such as poverty, and learning difficulties. According to a survey by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), India has the world's highest percentage of illiterates. Numerous issues brought on by illiteracy impede the society's steady progress. It further prevents people from making decisions about effective family planning. Illiteracy is thought to be the root cause of a number of problems, including poverty, unemployment, and population growth. India, a victim of this, is severely impacted by the effects of illiteracy. Education is believed to aid a person in understanding a situation and making logical decisions. Men and women with higher levels of education are better able to make decisions about family planning.

ISSUES WITH POPULATION EXPLOSION

The ability of the earth to generate food, water, and other natural resources is put under even more strain as the human population rises. As a result, the poor must endure malnutrition, famine, and unsanitary living conditions. Population growth that is too rapid results in severe pollution and deforestation. The population increase has a variety of effects on natural resources and several economic sectors. As the population increases, so does the demand for

work and occupations. However, due to a lack of resources and employment opportunities, India has millions of unemployed people.

❖ **The Unemployment**

Since members of some castes are not allowed to work in particular occupations, India's caste system plays a significant role in the country's high unemployment rate. Increased population, insufficient economic growth, and the disappearance of cottage and small-scale enterprises as a result of industrial development all contribute to increasing unemployment rates. Furthermore, because agriculture is a seasonal industry, many agricultural labourers lack the necessary job and income. Indian savings and investment rates are low, which has led to the demise of cottage and small-scale manufacturing as well as the unemployment of artisans. Additionally, there is a dearth of investment in tier 2 and tier 3 cities as well as rural areas, which results in significant unrealized job potential. Finally, 33% of educated youth are unemployed due to a lack of necessary skills. Whenever anyone actively seeks job but is unable to do so, this is referred to as being unemployed.

❖ **Resource scarcity**

Whenever a natural resource is under scarcity, the stock of that resource is declining because there is a greater demand for it than there is room to meet that need. As prices rise and the resource becomes less cheap for those who are least well-off, this can result in unsustainable growth and a rise in inequality. Water scarcity in India has a significant impact on both the vast rural and urban population as well as the ecosystem and agriculture. Despite having a population of nearly 1.39 billion, only 4% of the world's fresh water resources are found in India. India is experiencing severe resource scarcity as a result of its rapid population growth. Due to their limited availability, resources are being exploited as they are used up more and more to satisfy people's wants.

❖ **Infrastructure issues**

Transportation infrastructure is a key barrier; India's clogged roads, lengthy freight train delays, and other issues all lead to serious capacity issues. Critical infrastructure is consistently underfunded, which impedes economic development and puts businesses and communities at serious risk. Population increase is putting strain on the physical and digital infrastructure that is already in place, and it also faces threats from cyberattacks, severe weather, and climate change. Poor infrastructure is caused by a number of issues, including a lack of funding or funding shortages, inadequate supplies of resources for development, ineffective labour practices for development, and inadequate repair and upkeep.

❖ **Inequality of income distribution and poverty**

India is classified as a country with "severe inequalities" in the World Inequality Database (WID) Report, 2021. According to the survey, the average annual household income for adults in India is INR 204,200. While the bottom 50% earns INR 53,610, the top 10% make INR 1,166,520, which is more than 20 times higher. More than 60% of India's total wealth has been held by the top 10% of earners over the past ten years. This suggests that wealth inequality in India has significantly increased during the past 40 years, in stark contrast to the measly 6% of the nation's total wealth that is distributed among the bottom 50% of the population. According to empirical estimates, poverty rates are correlated with income disparity, and income inequality is correlated with poverty rates as well.

GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS BEEN DONE TO REDUCE THE POPULATION

The population control bill of 2019 withdrawn in 2022 proposed a two-child limit per spouse and sought to encourage adoption through financial incentives such as educational grants, free healthcare, greater job prospects, and home loans. Small family, happy family is the slogan used by the Indian government to launch family planning and welfare programmes. Several public spaces display the inverted Red Triangle, which is a representation of family planning. Education regarding family planning techniques is provided by volunteers and social workers. The number of families also decreases as a result of decreasing child mortality, better access to healthcare, and increased economic prospects. International assistance, ethical trade, and global justice are all tools that can be used to reduce global population to levels that are sustainable.

❖ **Five Year Plan - I (1951 – 1956)**

The first five-year plan was effective in many ways, but there were also certain areas where it fell short. The overall rate of poverty and deprivation did not decrease by a larger margin. Due to limited resources and lack of understanding of scientific growth, technological and scientific advancement remained stagnant. Some students in

the class were still ravenous and unfed. Even though it had slightly improved, India's economy lagged far behind that of its neighbours. There was still room for improvement in both employment and education. The first five-year plan's theme was "Development of Agriculture," and its main goal was to address the various issues brought on by the country's division and the Second World War. The growth of agriculture was the primary objective of the First Five-Year Plan. India's economy was based mostly on agriculture when it attained freedom.

❖ **Five Year Plan - II (1956-1961)**

The primary goals of the Second Plan are to grow real national income by 25% over the five-year period 1956–1957–1960–1961, significantly enhance job possibilities, industrialise quickly, and lessen economic inequality. More emphasis was placed on population management in the Second Five Year Plan. The plan took into account the fact that the pace of population increase would determine the rate of economic development, making it important to limit the population boom. This national program's four main components were: creating an environment of acceptance for contraception through education; providing sterilisation facilities through rural and urban centers; providing staff training programs; and conducting research.

❖ **Five Year Plan – III (1961 – 1966)**

The Third Five-year Plan placed a strong emphasis on agriculture and increasing wheat output, but the Sino-Indian War of 1962 highlighted economic flaws and moved attention to the Indian Army and the defence sector. The plan took into account societal factors like employment, education, rural water supplies, and the expansion of family planning programmes. Also noteworthy is the fact that family planning and welfare programmes received higher attention as a result of the Census of 1961, which indicated a substantial increase in population.

❖ **Five Year Plan - IV (1969 – 1974)**

Indira Gandhi led India as prime minister during the fourth Five-Year Plan. The fourth Plan's time frame was from 1 April 1969 to 31 March 1974. The fourth plan sought to increase stability and self-reliance in growth, particularly in the defence industry. The government concentrated on population during the Fourth Five Year Plan in order to determine how to slow the rate of population growth. In order to accomplish this, the government raised awareness about small family standards, improved understanding of family planning techniques, and reaffirmed that family planning would remain the top priority in order to regulate the population.

❖ **Five Year Plan - V (1974 – 1979)**

Achieving self-reliance and removing poverty were the two main goals of this plan. This was intended by encouraging faster growth rates, more equitable income distribution, as well as a large rise in domestic saving rates. In this plan, the issue of family planning received the same level of importance. This plan also placed emphasis on the central government's significant initiatives and decision regarding integrated family planning. The National Minimum Needs Programme was one of the newer programmes implemented under this programme, and it also improved existing services like public health care, the availability of medications, etc.

❖ **The 1976 National Population Policy**

In order to combat the population growth brought on by poverty, India developed a comprehensive national population policy in 1967. Girls' education was given more focus, population education was given its due place in the overall educational system, all government ministries and departments participated in the family planning programme, monetary compensation for sterilisation was instituted, group awards were established as incentives for various organisations and bodies that represented the people, and close relationships between the various organisations and bodies were encouraged. India spent 0.65 during the first five-year plan (1951–1956) on family planning.

POVERTY IS CAUSED BY THE GROWTH IN POPULATION

Poor farmers make up a major portion of the population in India's rural areas. Their agricultural output was reliant on rains because their land was typically not fruitful. They rely on cattle and subsistence crops for their survival. Due to the population's rapid growth and a lack of alternative work opportunities, the amount of land that may be used for farming per person has constantly decreased. The income from these modest property holdings does not suffice to cover the family's essential needs. Many people fall into poverty as a result of this. Rural migrants who moved to urban regions in search of work make up a sizable portion of the impoverished in both rural and urban communities. In-demand employment have not been accessible to them. Poor people in cities typically work as

temporary or sporadic workers. They either have limited skill sets or a lack of employment security. In this way, poverty has increased as a result of a growing population lacking access to quality jobs and education.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION EXPLOSION

Development in agriculture that has enhanced food production and lowered starving mortality. medical facilities that have decreased disease and epidemic-related mortality. improved nutrition and healthcare services promote longevity. Socioeconomic issues brought on by a lack of housing, food, facilities for education and healthcare, as well as by unemployment and poverty. Energy issue brought on by rising oil and electricity demand.

INFLUENCE OF POPULATION GROWTH ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY

India's overpopulation has resulted in a number of issues, including unemployment, excessive dependency, low income rates, insecurities, job loss, failed development efforts, and societal issues. The backbone of India's functioning and development is its economy. Having a good understanding of how the Indian economy operates is crucial. It becomes simpler to recognise the difficulties, shortfalls, and issues with the Indian economy as well as the areas where it needs to make improvements. The country's extreme overpopulation is one of the problems the Indian economy is currently facing. In order to examine the effects of population growth on the Indian economy right now, also discuss the concept of a \$5 trillion economy. In addition to having a negative impact on the environment, overcrowding also has a negative impact on a nation's economy. After China, India has the second-highest population density, and this reputation is deadly.

CONCLUSION

The economy suffers as a result of population growth, which also causes social problems, economic insecurity, social insecurity, increased environmental pressure, and societal instability. Other negative effects of population growth include unemployment, food shortages, low per capita income, issues with capital formation, high levels of stress, and social problems. The country is currently facing a number of serious problems, including overpopulation, which is a significant barrier to economic growth. It is commendable that the government is concerned about population increase because, in part, thanks to its efforts, the rate of population growth in the nation has been slowed. Various training institutions have also been established for family planning as a result of government initiatives that have helped raise awareness of the topic. These programmes have significantly contributed to a decline in the birth rate. India has timely implemented a number of policies aimed at controlling the population growth, but up to this point, overcrowding has remained a major cause for concern. In order to effectively address the escalating overpopulation problem, it is necessary to establish and enact strong legislation and regulatory measures. The government now faces a liability due to overpopulation, thus it must be urgently controlled in order to, among other things, make the best use of available resources and turn the nation's human resources into valuable assets. In order to support human flourishing in a globalised society, this essay analyses population growth and Indian economic development processes in connection to poverty, inequality, resource scarcity, and unemployment.

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