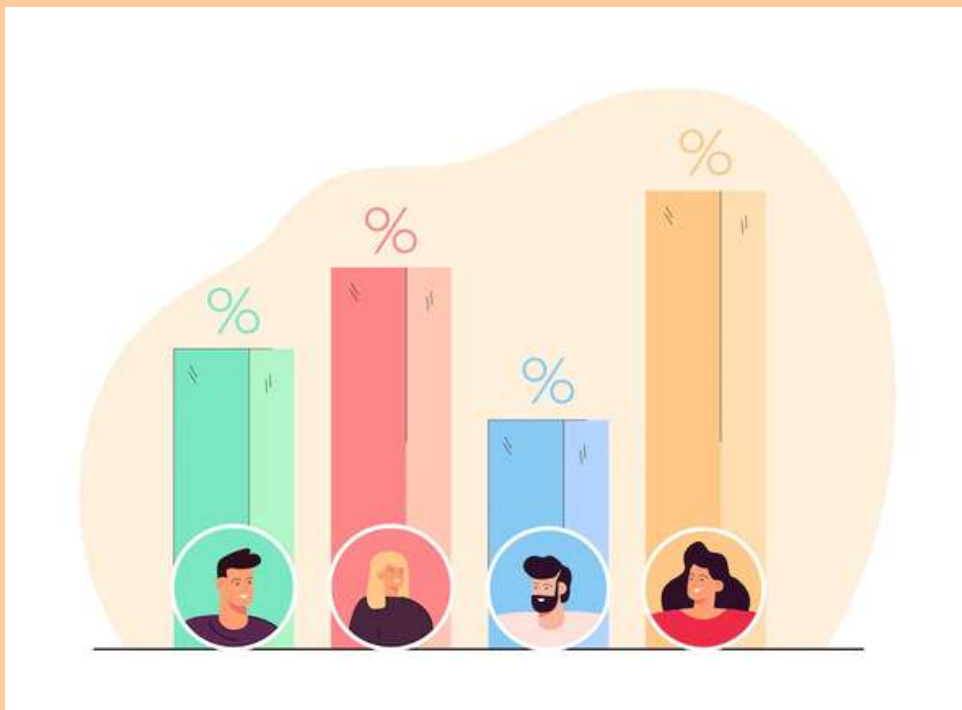


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POPULATION TRENDS

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Population Trends

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A population is a distinct group of individuals, whether that group comprises a nation or a group of people with a common characteristic.

- Population trends and dynamics play a powerful role in development and must therefore be factored into planning and policy decisions.
- Population size and structure impact a country's economy as well as its ability to provide social protections and access to health care, education, housing, sanitation, water, food, and energy.

Population Growth and Economic Development

Population growth helps the process of development in certain ways and hampers it in certain other ways. This is so because the relationship between population growth and economic development is intricate, complex, and interacting.

Positive Aspect of Population Growth

- **Population growth of a country brings about an increase in transactions** of necessary requirements like food, clothing, and shelter. This influences the economic status of such country as there would be an increase in tax paid. These taxes paid by the individual are then being used to bring about infrastructural development to such region.
- **Population growth also brings about an increase in the number of people** that constitute the workforce of the nation. With this increase in the nation's workforce, there is a ready human workforce that is well utilized and developed, which can bring about increased productivity, especially in the areas of agriculture and manufacturing.
- **Population growth also results in a high level of innovative ideas:** the more the number people, the more the innovative ideas that can be developed. Population growth through the presence of many innovative brains can help result in more and more industrial production as well.
- **Population growth also ensures diversity** and appreciation of various orientations, especially in the areas of culture and religion.

Negative Aspect of Population Growth

- **With an increased population in any society or country, comes a high crime rate.** This is because the more the population increases, the more individuals begin to compete for basic living requirements. In a bid to earn a living, individuals delve into all sorts of illegal activities to make a living.
- **Population growth also means that individuals have to compete for more land space.** Even though population increases, land space doesn't, and to create more space, environmental degradation like deforestation occurs.
- **Population growth results in high-level competition for basic resources** available in the region, Due to limited resources, population growth results in unemployment as population growth begins to surpass the employment opportunities available.

Population Policy in India

The **National Population Policy** was launched by the government of India with a broad aim of assisting the citizens with reproductive health care services that help the citizens in making voluntary and informed choices on family planning. To provide for basic reproductive and child health care services, and infrastructure in India.

Important Features of Population Policy

The following are some of the important features of population policy in India:

1. **Reducing Death Rate:** Morality is an undesirable characteristic of the Indian population policy.
2. **Reducing Birth Rate:** The government has been making effort to reduce the birth rate to reduce the growth rate of the population. Measures adopted for the purpose include popularizing sterilization, increasing the use of different birth control devices spread of education introducing poverty alleviation programmes raising the minimum age of marriage etc.
3. **Voluntary approach:** The population policy adopted by our country is based on the voluntary approach. No one is forced to adopt family planning measures. The policy aims at implementing family welfare measures with the help of voluntary cooperation of the people. Some of the measures taken by the Govt. include an emphasis on the nature of the programme securing the cooperation of rural institutions and Panchayati raj bodies.
4. **Wide approach:** The population policy of India has adopted a wide and integrated approach to control population growth. It includes various family welfare measures for improvement of the health of mothers and children and nutrition programmes etc. The reproductive and child health (RCH) approach was accepted in 1995.

5. **Population Education:** Steps have on taken to educate children and adults to make them conscious of the problem of population explosion and to realize the need for population control. Family welfare advertisements are made in media like T.V. radio and newspapers.
6. **Incentives:** In order to popularize the birth control measures, family welfare programme incentives are offered by the Govt. to that individual couples or groups. These incentives are given in cash or kind.

Five-Year Plans by the Government of India for Population Control

- **First Five-Year Plan (1951–1956):** India is the first country in the world to begin a population control programme in 1952. It emphasized the use of natural devices for family planning.
- **Second Five-Year Plan (1956–1961):** Work was done in the direction of education and research and the clinical approach was encouraged.
- **Third Five-Year Plan (1961–1966):** In 1965, the sterilization technique for both men and women were adopted under this plan. The technique of copper- T was also adopted. An independent department called the Family Planning Department was set up.
- **Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969–1974):** All kinds of birth control methods (conventional and modern) were encouraged.
- **Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974–1978):** Under this plan, the National Population Policy was announced on 16 April 1976. In this policy, the minimum age for marriage determined by the Sharda Act, of 1929 was increased. It increased the age for boys from 18 to 21 years and for girls from 14 to 18 years.
- **In the Sixth (1980 - 1985), Seventh (1985–1990) and Eighth Plans (1992–1997),** efforts were done to control the population by determining long-term demographic aims.
- **Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997–2002):** In 1993, the government established an expert group under the chairmanship of M.S. Swaminathan for formulating a national population policy. Though this group had prepared the draft of the new population policy in 1994, it was reviewed in 1999 by the Family Welfare Department and was passed by the Parliament in 2000. The Central Government formulated the 'new national population policy in February 2000.

Objectives of Ninth Five Year Plan

1. **Temporary objective:** The easy supply of birth control devices was included in it. Besides, the development of a health protection framework and recruitment of health workers were also made a part of it.

2. **Middle-term objective:** Under it, the total fertility rate (TFR) had to bring down to the replacement level of 2.1 by 2010.
3. **Long-term objective:** Under it, the Objective of population stabilization by 2045 is to be achieved.

The above recommended major objectives had been set in the National Population Policy till the year 2010:

1. The 'total fertility rate' is to be reduced to 2.1.
2. The high-class birth control services had to be made available publicly so that the standard of two children could be adopted.
3. The infant mortality rate had to be reduced to 30 per thousand.
4. The mother mortality rate had also to be reduced to below 100 per one lakh.
5. The late marriage of girls had to be encouraged.

National Socio-Demographic Goals for 2010

To fulfil these objectives and targets **National Socio-Demographic goals** have been formulated which in each case are to be achieved by the year 2010,

They are as follows:

1. Make school education free and compulsory up to the age of 14 and reduce dropouts at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 per cent for both boys and girls.
2. Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
3. Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
4. Promote delayed marriage for girls, not before 18 and preferably after the age of 20 years.
5. Prevent and control communicable diseases.
6. Achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
7. Achieve 80 per cent institutional deliveries and 100 per cent deliveries by trained persons.

8. Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, marriage, and pregnancy.
9. Integrate Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out to households.
10. Contain the spread of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and promote greater integration between the management of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organization.
11. Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programs so that family welfare becomes a people centric program.
12. Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of TFR.

Recent Recommendations on Population Policy

To implement and achieve the various objectives, targets and socio-demographic goals, the following organizational structure has been proposed by the **National Population Policy**:

1. The appointment of a National Commission on Population to be presided over by the Prime Minister. The chief ministers of all States and related ministers will be its members.
2. There will be a State Commission on Population in every State headed by its chief minister.
3. The new policy will be implemented by the Panchayats and municipalities at the grassroots levels.

Population Control Bill, 2020

A private member bill is to be introduced by a congress MP and a Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Sanghavi in Rajya which **is to enforce a two-child policy in the country i.e., Population Control Bill, 2020.**

1. This bill not only includes the benefits for the ones adhering to the rules and regulations of bills but also some disadvantages for the ones not following the proposed policy.
2. The objective of the bill is stated in its long title/preamble as **“providing the measure to control the population of the country and matters and incidents related thereto”.**
3. This bill offers some financial benefits to the couples adhering to this **two-child policy.**

4. The couple has only one child and if undergo a sterilisation operation on their own then the government will provide them with the benefits according to the single child preference.
5. The bill also calls upon the Central Government to set up a **National Population Stabilization Fund (Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh)** in order to ensure that contraceptives are available at reasonable rates at sub-health centres.
6. Moreover, there are different financial benefits for couples living **below the poverty line and undergoing sterilization** voluntarily.

Sources:

- PRS India
- PIB News
- The Hindu articles
- Planning commission booklet



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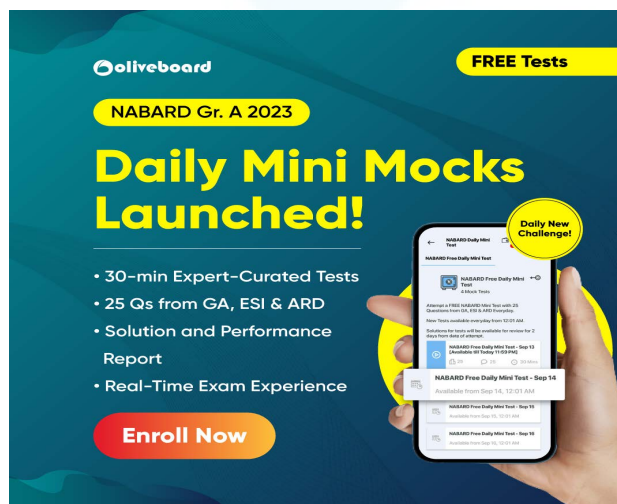
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