



Past, Present and Future Trends of Population Growth and Distribution among Major Regions of the World

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ABSTRACT

Past, Present & Future Trends of Population Growth and Distribution among Major Regions of the World; presented in this study. The study is based mainly on data compiled and published in the past by many stake holders. Population growth raises demand for food. Problems in food production are particularly difficult for some developing countries with high population growth rates and low technological changes in agriculture. Rapid population growth tends to impact the interactions between human beings and their environment. An increasing number of people in the population lead to pressures on land resources limit the amount of arable agricultural land and tend to worsen the situation of food supply and human reproduction. Furthermore a high rate of population growth is likely to increase population density in certain geographic areas, particularly urban settings. As a result overcrowding, unemployment, and poverty are likely to lead to social problems in some localities

KEYWORDS: Fertility, Migration, Demographic transition, Population Growth

The population of Asia was 502 million in 1750 AD which rose to 635 million by 1800, 809 million by 1850, 947 million by 1900 and 1402 million by 1950. The population of Asia increased its share of world population between 1950-1999 from 56 per cent to 61 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers between 1950-1999, the population of Asia grew from 1402 million to 3637 million. Out of 78 million persons added each year to the world population during 1990-1999, 63 per cent are from Asia. The two largest Asian countries, china and India, alone added 28.6 million to the world population or 35.4 per cent of the average annual global increase between 1990-1999. Asia will be added by another 2 billion people or 56 per cent by 2050 from 1999 level (3637 million). Its population by then will be 5.44 billion people; by the 2050 will then consists 58 per cent of the world population

The population of Africa was 106 million in 1750. It has reached 107 million by 1800, 111 million by 1850, 133 million by 1900 and 224 million by 1950. Thus, fastest growth of population is observed in Africa from the year 1900. The population of Africa increased its share of world population between 1950 and 1999 from 9-13 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers between 1950-1999, the population of Africa grew from 224 million to 771 million or 2.6 per cent per annum. Today, Africa is exhibiting the fastest growth of population in the world and it is expected to remain in that position until 2050. Out of 78 million persons added each year to the world population during 1990-1999, 17.16 million persons (22 per cent) are from Africa. The population of Africa to double its 1999 size (1290 million) by 2025, and is projected to reach 2.46 billion by the year 2050, an overall increase by 177 per cent. Africa is the only major area that is projected to have more than twice its current population size in 2050, up from about 9 per cent in 1950 and from 13 per cent in 1999.

The population of Latin America and Caribbean was 16 million in the year 1750. It was 24 million in 1800, 38 million in 1850, 74 million in 1900 and 166 million in 1950. The population of Latin America and Caribbean increased its share of world population from 7 to 8 per cent between 1950-1999, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean rose from 166 million in 1950 to 512 million in 1999. Now, Latin America and the Caribbean are projected to have faster growth than Asia. Its population from 512 million in 1999 will grow to 690 million by 2025 and 810 million by 2050, an increase of 67 per cent. But its share of the world population will remain virtually unchanged (8.4 per cent in 1999, 8.7 per cent in 2050).

The population of Europe was 163 million in 1750. It was 203 million in 1800, 276 million in 1850, 408 million in 1900 and 547 million in 1950. Europe had 22 percent of the world population in 1950 which fell to 13 percent in 1999. Among the developed regions, Europe is the only major area that is projected to decline in population size over the period 1999-2050. Europe's total population will decline from 728 million in 1999 to 701 million in 2025 and 638 million in 2050. Thus returning to its 1966s size. Europe's share of the world population will have further

declined from 22 percent in 1950 to 7 per cent in 2050.

Table.1 – Population Growth and Distribution in the Major Regions 1750-2050 (In millions)

Major Regions	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	1999	2025	2050
World Total	791	978	1262	1650	2524	5768	8039	9367
Africa	106	107	111	133	224	771	1290	2046
Asia	502	635	809	947	1402	3637	4785	5443
Europe	163	203	276	408	547	728	701	638
Latin America and Caribbean	16	24	38	74	166	512	690	810
North America	2	7	26	82	172	303	369	384
Oceania	2	2	2	6	13	30	41	46

The population of North America was 2 million in 1750 and touched 7 million by 1800. By 1900 the population reached to 82 million and 1999 the population of North America is 303 million. But the North America declined its share of world population between 1950-1999. Its share declined from 7 percent in 1950 to 5 per cent in 1999. It is projected to reach 369 million by 2025 and 384 million by 2050. Unlike, Europe's declining population by 2050; the population of North America will increase rather very slowly even during 2050.

The population of Oceania remained 2 million from 1750 to 1850. It rose to 6 million by the year 1900 and 13 million by 1950. The population of Oceania in 1999 is 30 million. It is projected to touch 41 million by 2025 and 46 million by 2050. The growth of population in Oceania is mostly due to migration.

Thus, in between 1950 and 2050, the population of Africa is expected to be multiplied by a little more than 9, Latin America and the Caribbean nearly by 5, Asia by 4, North America by 2 and Europe by just 1.2.

Conclusion

Fertility is still high in some countries (mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East), where further improving family-planning services remains a major concern for designing programs and for policy implications. The population question is about the possibility and necessity of balancing the needs of nature and human civilization- and whether we can hope to or should have any say over the process.. Overpopulation of one region will seek release in an under-populated region. Stronger economies will be a magnet for those from weaker economies. Local carbon emissions will increase temperatures and change global weather patterns, disrupting food supplies and sowing insecurity. Diseases that begin in crowded slums can travel the world. Aging populations could lead to long-term economic depression, decreasing our ability to address the great problems we face such as environmental degrada-

ation, rising demand for food. Balancing the population across the regions is the need of the hour.

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