



## Impact of Overpopulation on Indian Economy and their Redemption

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### ABSTRACT

*Every corner of India is a clear display of increasing population. In the metro stations, roads, railway stations, bus stops, hospitals, airports and all other places are overcrowded at any time of the day. This is a clear indication of overpopulation in India. India is the second most populous country of the world after China. Overpopulation does not depend only on the size or density of the population, but on the ratio of population to available sustainable resources. It also depends on how resources are managed and distributed throughout the population. This study examines the effects of overpopulation on Economic Development of India. The population has positive impact as well negative impact on Indian economy. Present paper examined the causes, impacts and policies implementation to control the overpopulation. This paper also examines the trends in birth rate, death rate and trends in Indian population.*

**KEYWORDS :** Overpopulation, India, Economic Development, Sustainable Resources etc.

### INTRODUCTION

Indian economy is facing several challenges relating to its process of economic development, the challenge of rapid growth of population is central and serious problem. The growth rate of population in India is very high because of large difference between birth rate and death rate. Fast declining death rates due to better sanitation and health facilities and high birth rate is the main reason of high population growth rate. Natural resources can't increase according to the population growth, so Indian economy faced many problems due to overpopulation like, economic development, unemployment, poverty, environmental degradation, inequality and some others problems (nptel.ac.in). In initial stages of human history the human population grew at very low speed till 17th century approximately 0.002% per year. With increasing in the industrial sector, agriculture sector and service sector the population growth began to accelerate. The present world population is estimated at 7.3 billion. India, the largest democratic country in the world covers 2.42% of the total land of the world and 16.87% of the total world population. 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 (A. Shubhi, 2014). If we continue to grow at this rate, according to one estimate by 2050 our population size will exceed the population size of China. It is indeed alarming. We need to combat the high growth rate of population and growth is to be translated into development.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY-** The main objective of this study is that to know about the trends in the population of India and to know that Indian economy is facing the problem of overpopulation in real.

**Table 1: Size and Growth of India's population (1951-2011)**

Census Year	Population (Crore)	Increase or Decrease (Crore)	Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
1951	36.10	4.24	1.25
1961	43.92	7.82	1.96
1971	54.81	10.89	2.22
1981	68.33	13.52	2.20
1991	84.63	16.30	2.14
2001	102.9	18.07	1.93
2011	121.02	18.12	1.76

(Jain. T. R and Majhi. B. D, 2014)

In the table 1 Growth of population is not uniform in the period from 1951 to 2011. Population growth is increasing from 1951 to 1981, there was an alarming rise in population. In 1971 the growth of population was highest, after this it decline but volume of population is increasing. In 2011 it was 1.76 which is very high in the comparison of World population growth rate.

**Table 2: Death Rate and Birth Rate in India (1951-2011)**

Census Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Growth Rate (per annum in per cent)
1941-51	39.9	27.4	12.5
1951-61	41.7	22.8	18.9
1961-71	37.9	19.0	18.9
1971-81	36.0	15.0	21.0
1981-91	32.5	11.4	21.1
1991-2001	25.0	8.1	18.9
2001-2011	22.1	7.2	14.9

(Source: Census of India 2011, Economic Survey 2011-12)

Birth rate refers to number of children born per thousand persons in a year. Death rate refers to number of persons who die per thousand persons in a year. From table 2, it is clear that during 1951 to 2011 both birth rate and death rate has fallen. But death rate has fallen with rapid rate than birth rate. Because of this difference between them is the cause of arising the situation of population explosion.

### Argument Favours the Perception that India is Over-populated

The standard of living in India is so low that further increase in the population of poor classes. Economists believe that India is an over-populated country, offer the following argument:

**Unemployment:** Large population implies a large unskilled labour. It is very hard to provide gainful employment of everybody. Indian economy has the normal features of open unemployment in urban areas and disguised unemployment in rural areas. It is the alarm of overpopulation in India. Indian economy having approximately 2 per cent unemployment which is very high.

**Low Standard of Living:** Rapid rate of population growth accounts for low standard of living in India. Mostly necessities of life are not available to a large section of the society. 29.5 per cent population is living below to poverty line in India. We have certainly crossed the threshold of overpopulation.

Thus, India is certainly an overpopulated country. Every year, there is an addition of more than 12 million people in the India's population.

India, supports 16.87 per cent of world's population with meager 2.42 per cent of world's area and 1.5 per cent of world's income. These numbers show that there is excessive pressure of population on the Indian economy.

### Main Effects of Population Explosion in India

Population has crossed the optimum limit in India and has become a liability. So problem of population explosion in India has proved to be a big problem in the success of economic planning and development. Following are the main effects of population explosion:

### Problem of Capital Formation:

A country with explosive population size usually has a large percentage of dependents. In India 35% population are under the age of 14 years. Generally, they are dependents on others for subsistence. The burden of dependents reduces the capacity to save. So the rate of capital formation continuous falls.

### Problem of Unemployment:

Unemployment is a great social evil. Large size of population generates pressure of unemployment. While labour force expands, capital stock does not expand according to population. So the mismatch between labour and capital is the main cause of unemployment. Disguised unemployment in rural areas and open unemployment in urban areas are the normal features of a developing country like India.

### Problem of Poverty:

Rising population increases poverty in India. According to Rangrajan Committee 29.5 per cent population lived under BPL (Census2011). People have to spend a large portion of their resources on subsistence. It results into less saving, low productivity, low level of income and low rate of capital formation. Thus, an economy is starting with poverty and end up with poverty alone. (<http://www.economicdiscussion.net>)

### Environmental Problems:

Due to large size of population and its high rate of growth, population migrates from rural sector to urban sector. They used natural resources for their fulfillment of desires. Due to this reason the population in urban areas increase rapidly and they create some environmental problem like air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution and land pollution. They degrade the environment and used natural resources with rapid rate. (B. Joson et al, 2010)

### Social Infrastructure:

Rising population negatively impacts on social infrastructure. Their per capita availability is reduced which is a serious threat to the process of growth and development. Social infrastructural facilities are over-burdened in India.

### Pressure on Agricultural Land:

Rising population increases pressure on agricultural land. On the one hand, per capita availability of land tends to diminish and on the other hand, productivity of land also diminishing. It adversely affects the growth and development of India.

### Population Control in India- Remedial Measures

Large size of population and high growth rate of population become a challenge for India. Solution to the problem of population calls for a definite population policy. The objective of population control policy is to decrease the growth rate of population and improve economic condition. We take following steps to control the population:

- Late Marriages
- Family Planning
- High Standard of Living
- Social Security
- Change in Social Outlook
- Urbanization
- Health and Sanitation
- Respectful Status of Women
- Spread of Education

### Other remedial measures taken by Indian Government

After independence India economy adopted a national policy on population control. Objective of the policy was that control the increasing in birth rate and enhancing the quality of life.

### National Population Policy(1976)

The Government of India announced the 1<sup>st</sup> population policy on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1976. In this policy following are some notable features :

- Use of education system to create awareness of the population problems.
- Use of media for spreading the policy of population control among the urban and rural areas.
- The main objective of this policy was that decline the birth rate from 35 per cent to 25 per cent (National Population Policy, 1976).

### National Population Policy(2000)

The Government of India announced its National Population Policy on February 15, 2000. The Immediate objective of NNP is to address the fulfilled needs for health care infrastructure, health personnel and quality of life. The medium-term objective is to bring TFR to replacement level of fertility by 2010 through various strategies. The long objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045 to a level with the requirements of sustainable economic growth and environmental protection. (<http://populationcommission.nic.in>)

### Family Welfare Programme

Family planning means keeping family-size within limits, realising in fact that, smaller the family size, better the standard of living. The government has widened the scope of this programme, it as Family Welfare Programme. It implies, to have a child by choice, not by chance. Generally, it is advised to restrict the number of children in a family to two or three. ([www.yourarticlelibrary.com](http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com))

### CONCLUSION

In this paper we examined that India is facing a real problem of rapid growth of population explosion. This problem is due to large difference between the birth rate and death rate, birth rate is remaining at high level, but death rate is declining, so this situation create many economic and social problems in Indian economy. In the present time we are facing the problems like unemployment, poverty, low level of per capita income, low level of living standard, environmental degradation, poor social infrastructure, etc. So, there is need to implement many effected policies. Solution to the problem of population calls for a definite population policy. The objective of population control policy is to decrease the growth rate of population and improve economic condition.

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