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## INDEX

Sr. No.	Title	Author	Subject	Page No.
1	Impact of Liquid biofertilizers, Chemical fertilizers and Vermicompost on the Growth and Yield of <i>Chenopodium album</i> (L.)	Dr. Sivgami Srinivasan, A. Sabitha	Biochemistry	1-3
2	Production Of Biodiesel From Microalgae Using Sodium Methoxide	M. R. Ananadhi Padmanabhan, Dr. Shaleesha A.Stanley	Biotechnology	4-6
3	Profitability Analysis Of Bharath Sanchar Nigam Limited (Bsnl)	Dr. M.Dhanabhakyaam, Swapna Kurain	Commerce	7-9
4	Water Resource Management Through Community Initiatives	Dr. Mahalaxmi Krishnan	Commerce	10-11
5	IPO Grading – An Insight	Dr. Bheemanagouda	Commerce	12-14
6	Public Private Partnership (PPP) in West Bengal: A Study	Suvarun Goswami	Commerce	15-17
7	Factors Influencing Impulse Buying of Personal Care Products in Salem City	Dr. A. Vinayagamoorthy, P. kannan	Commerce	18-21
8	Employees Savings and Investment Behaviour of Selected Chemical Industries in Cuddalore District	Dr. G. Sasikumar, R. Punniyaseelan	Commerce	22-28
9	Object Oriented Mutation Applied to Java platform and C++ classes	Ravindra K. Gupta, Dr. Shailendra Singh, Titu Singh Arora	Computer Science	29-32
10	Estimating The Intravenous Fluid Resuscitation In Patients In The Intensive Care Units (A Fuzzy Logic Based Expert Advisory System)	Kamal Kumari Dadhirao, M. Surendra Prasad Babu, Mr. Suresh Kumar Maddila	Computer Science	33-36
11	An Evaluation of Women Construction Workers	T. Christy Chanchu, T. Christy Cresida	Economics	37-39
12	Carlson's Tropic State Index(CTSI) Used in Mandya Lakes	Nagarathna, Hosmani S P	Economics	40-42
13	A water pollution of metropolitan cities in India	Dr. Pawar A.S.	Economics	43-44
14	Urbanization & Pollution in India	Dr. Pawar Ashok Shankarrao	Economics	45-46
15	Motivational Strategies on Enhancing Competencies of LIC Professionals	Dr. K. Gunasekaran	Education	47-49
16	Awareness On Socio - Educational Rights Among Students Studying in Secondary School	Dr. A. Selvan, Dr. P. Paul Devanesan	Education	50-52
17	Major Approaches in Instilling Values Related to Human Rights	Dr. A. Selvan, P. Paul Devanesan	Education	53-54
18	A Study On Achievement In Mathematics of IXth Standard Students in Relation to Locus of Control and Test Anxiety	Dr. N .Rajashekara, Prathima .H.P, Narayana Swamy.Y.R	Education	55-58
19	Impact of value-orientation on Leadership Behaviour of Secondary School Teachers in Tumkur District	Dr. Umme kulsum, G.P.Nagaraja	Education	59-62
20	Performance Comparison between LMS and NLMS Algorithm	Baljit Kaur	Engineering	63-65
21	Overview of Speech Enhancement Techniques for Various Applications	N B Umashankar, Anand Jatti	Engineering	66-67

22	Hanford and Radioactive Tumbleweeds: A Case Study	Rajesh Gopinath	Engineering	68-69
23	Construction of a Knowledge Test for Tennis Players	Sanjay Singh, Sani Kumar Verma	Engineering	70-72
24	A Noval Switch Mode Power Supply for Flash Lamp Pumped Nd: Yag Laser	Kireet Semwal, S. C. Bhatt	Engineering	73-75
25	Uniform Price Electricity Market Model in Deregulated Power System	T. Nireekshana, Dr. G. Kesava Rao, Dr. S. Siva Naga Raju	Engineering	76-79
26	Effect of Notch Orientation, Temperature and Filler Material on Impact Toughness of GFRP Composites	M.C.Muruges, Dr. K. Sadashivappa	Engineering	80-83
27	Prediction of Heat transfer rate for Indian coal slurry based on regression analysis	C.M. Raguraman, A. Ragupathy, L. Sivakumar	Engineering	84-86
28	A study of antimicrobial activity of the flavonoid- Kaempferol-3-rutinoside- from <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> (Jacq.) kunth.ex.Walp.	Anandhi, B., Sukumar. D, Arivudainambi. R	Engineering	87-88
29	Amitav Ghosh: Transfiguration of Memory and Imagination in the Shadow Lines	S.Kokila	English	89-90
30	Shareholder Activism in the U.S. and India	Ch. Chaitanya	Finance	91-93
31	Growth and Trends of Population in Nanded City, Maharashtra	Dr. Rathod S. B.	Geography	94-96
32	Regional Disparities of Ground water irrigation in Solapur District: A Geographical Analysis	Dr. G.U.Todkari, Shri B.D. Patil	Geography	97-99
33	Women and Employment in Textile Industries	Dr. S. S. Vijayanchali, Dr. E. Arumuga Gandhi	Home Science	100-102
34	Transition in Nutrition and Marketing of Agro Products	Dr. Anjali Rajwade	Home Science	103-104
35	Assessment of Knowledge About Effects of Inadequate Dietary Pattern on Mother and Child Health	Dr. Anjali Rajwade, Dr. Charuta Rajwade	Home Science	105-106
36	Job Enrichment	Kapil Dev Upadhyay, Dr. (Prof.) Vijay Kumar Soni	Human Resource Management	107-108
37	Quality of Work Life	Himani Avasthi, Dr. (Prof.) Vijay Kumar Soni	Human Resource Management	109-110
38	Understanding Security Requirement Engineering	Velayutham Pavanasam, Chandrasekaran Subramaniam	Information Technology	111-112
39	GENE Prediction	Er. Pankaj Bhambri, Dr. O.P. Gupta, Er. Meenakshi	Information Technology	113-114
40	Predictive Analysis In Data Mining Using Weighted Associative Classifier	Suwarna Gothane	Information Technology	115-119
41	Exchange Rate Forecasting	Dr. T. Koti Reddy	International Trade	120-124
42	Mass Media in India – New Trends	J. Ramanjaneyulu	Law	125-127
43	Right to Education Under the Indian Constitution	Mannava Muni Hemachand	Law	128-130
44	Criminal Law: A Tool for Consumer Protection in India	Aneesh V. Pillai	Law	131-132

45	Public Trust Doctrine: A Repository of Governmental Obligations to Protect the Environment	Dr. Kaumudhi Challa	Law	133-134
46	Application of Biometrics in the Investigation of Crime	Dr. R. Thilagaraj, Mr. G. Deepak Raj Rao	Law	135-137
47	Factors and Situations of Language Change	Dr. Syed Mohammed Haseebuddin Quadri	Literature	138-139
48	Omprakash Valmiki ke kahanio me chitrit dalitoki samajik stithi	Dr. V. P. Mahalinge	Literature	140-141
49	Fund Management in Pharmaceutical Industry in India	Dr. R. Perumal	Management	142-145
50	A study of Relationship management with customers in hospitality sector	Afreen Nishat A. Nasabi	Management	146-147
51	Outsourcing of Geriatric Services	Dr. V. Sreedevi	Management	148-150
52	Factor Analysis and Business Research	Dr. Kakali Majumdar	Management	151-154
53	Faculty Turnover Intention in Educational Institutions	K. R. Sowmya, Dr. N. Panchanatham	Management	155-156
54	Corporate Governance	Kalola Rimaben A., Chauhan Lalit R.	Management	157-159
55	Investment Avenues and Tax Implications for Small Investors	P. Menakadevi, Dr. V. Kumaravel	Management	160-163
56	Analyzing the IT Industry Progressions and Comprehensive Market Downfall Consciences through Deliberate Thinking	Dr. Venkatesh. J, Ms. Aarthy. C	Management	164-166
57	A Study On Problems and Prospects of Farmers in Cultivation of Paddy in Mahabubnagar District, A.P	Mr. M. Madhu Mohan	Management	167-170
58	An Analytical Study of Cash Management of IT Industries in Global Era	Bhavesh P Chadamiya, Mital R Menapara	Management	171-173
59	The Status & Performance of Registered Small Enterprises; A Study in Karnataka	Dr. D. Kumuda	Management	174-179
60	Malnutrition – A Business Opportunity for State Cooperative Dairy Federations (Scdfs)	Dr. N. Ramanjaneyalu	Management	180-181
61	Financial Performance of Indian Corporate Sectors During Pre and Post Mergers and Acquisitions	Dr. Shailesh N. Ransariya, Dr. Butalal C. Ajmera	Management	182-184
62	A Study on Influence of Pedagogical Effectiveness on Academic Achievement of Students of B Schools	Dr. Viral Shilu	Management	185-186
63	Stimulation of Entrepreneurship through Venture Capital in India	Vijayakumar, Subrahmanya K C	Management	187-189
64	Performance Analysis of Indian Banks	Ajay K. Shah	Management	190-192
65	An Emprical Study on Effect of Combination of Sun with Different Zodiac Signs on Return of it Sector of Indian Stock Market	Dr. Jaydip Chaudhari, Pinkal Shah	Management	193-197
66	Internet Banking Customer Satisfaction and Online Banking Service Attributes	Md. Mahtab Alam, Dr. Umesh R. Dangarwala	Management	198-199
67	Changing Customer expectations & preferences in Indian Banking	Ms. Smita S. Shetty	Management	200-202
68	Current e-Governance Scenario in Healthcare sector in India	Samir Roy	Management	203-204

69	Liver function abnormality & Vestibular symptoms with Azithromycin	Dr. Parveen Kumar Sharma, Dr. Rekha Bansal	Medical Science	205-206
70	Unicornuate Uterus with Functional Noncommunicating Rudimentary Horn - A Rare Mullerian Anomaly	Anju Kumari Rani, Anand Prakash, Deepa Kapoor	Medical Science	207-208
71	Antenatal Diagnosis and Successful Delivery of a Fetus with Complete Heart Block	Anju Kumari Rani, Aditya Kapoor, Deepa Kapoor	Medical Science	209-210
72	Kangaroo mother care diminishes pain from heel lance in preterm neonates:	Dr.S.Valliammal, Dr. Ramachandra, Mr. Raja Sudhakar	Nursing	211-213
73	Experiential Domain and Extentionalistic Vocabulary : A Critical Consideration of Behaviourism	Dr. Jatinder Kumar Sharma	Philosophy	214-215
74	The Effect of a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Program on Stress and Well-Being in Adolescents: A Pilot Study	Urvashi Anand, Dr. Mahendra P. Sharma	Psychology	216-218
75	Personality Profile of Patients with Somatic Complaints at a Rural Health Centre	Dr. Mahendra P. Sharma, B. Padmasri and, Dr. Ramchandra	Psychology	219-220
76	Psychological Well-being: A study of the institutionalized aged	Dr. Pankaj S. Suvera	Psychology	221-223
77	Crystal Growth, Thermal and Optical Studies on L-arginine Based Nonlinear Optical Material	J. Ramajothi	Science	224-226
78	Encapsulation of Lactic Acid Bacteria in Calcium Alginate Beads for Bacteriocin Production	Vijay S. Wadhai, Shweta G. Kayarkar, Archana N. Dixit	Science	227-229
79	Synthesis Of Nonatitnate Based Dielectric Ceramic Using Various Grain Size of Starting Materials	Parul, Anand K Tyagi	Science	230-232
80	Separate Telangana Movement and Related Literary Works: A Study In Sociology of Literature	Dr. M. Sreedevi Xavier	Sociology	233-234
81	Changing Interests In Fine Arts as a Profession: A Study In Sociology of Art	Dr. Poonam Gandhi-Moirangthem	Sociology	235-236
82	Modeling Fertility and Growth of Mising Community of Assam, India	Deba Kr. Baruah, S. C. Kakaty	Statistics	237-239
83	Fort Vasota an Adventure Tourism Destination in Satara District	Dr. Ananadrao S. Patil	Tourism	240-242



## Modeling Fertility and Growth of Missing Community of Assam, India

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**ABSTRACT**

*There are many studies available to model non-human population by Leslie Matrix, but few attempts are in literature so far as modeling human population is concerned. By using fertility rates, survival rates, and base population for a given population, this model can be used to calculate growth of human population also. The model can also be used to determine whether the given population will increase or decrease in each age class over a long period of time and also to project future population. In this paper we propose to carry out a study in order to investigate the fertility behavior and growth of population of the Missing community, Assam exploiting the above mentioned approaches and an about 3 per cent per five year long term growth of women population is indicative.*

**Keywords : Leslie Matrix, Fertility, Growth, Projection, Missing Community**

**1.0 Introduction**

Matrix population models have become increasingly important and useful in predicting population growth. Projections of population growth on the basis of survival and fertility assumptions date back to 1895 by Cannan. In the early 40's, Bernardelli (1941), Lewis (1942), and Leslie (1945) successfully formalized the matrix methods introduced by Whelpton in 1936 to project populations. In 1945 Leslie wrote a paper that started by using the basic age-specific projection equations in a matrix form. In 1959 Leslie proposed a modified form of projection matrix to allow for the effect of the presence of other population members on population growth. Due to the importance of this deterministic model, J. H. Pollard developed a stochastic version of the basic model in 1966. In this paper we propose to carry out a study in order to investigate the fertility behavior and growth of population of the Missing community, Assam exploiting the above mentioned approaches.

**2.0 The Matrix Population Model**

The Leslie matrix population model is a discrete and age dependent. This matrix population model is widely used in population ecology and demography in order to determine the growth of a population, as well as the age distribution within the population over time.

Recognizing that men and women have different survival probabilities, but because only women have children, they constitute the "engine" of population dynamics. Given its one-sex formulation, the model is best interpreted as a model of the female population

Let us define following relevant terms of the model

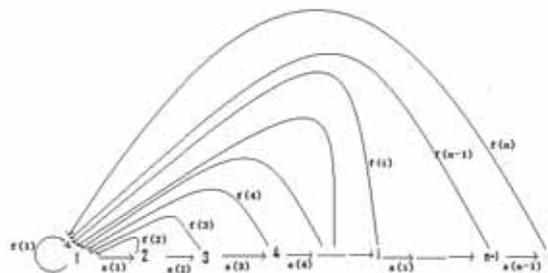
- $X_t(i)$  = number of females age class  $i$  at time  $t$
- $f(i)$  = per-capita fecundity (daughters) of age class  $i$  females
- $S(i)$  = survival from birth to age class  $i$

The age distribution in period  $t + 1$  is determined by the following system of equations,

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{t+1}(1) &= f(1)X_t(1) + f(2)X_t(2) + f(3)X_t(3) + f(4)X_t(4) + \dots + f(n)X_t(n) \\
 X_{t+1}(2) &= S(1)X_t(1) \\
 X_{t+1}(3) &= S(2)X_t(2) \\
 X_{t+1}(4) &= S(3)X_t(3) \\
 &\dots\dots\dots \\
 &\dots\dots\dots \\
 X_{t+1}(n) &= S(n-1)X_t(n-1)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{1}$$

The process described by above system of equations can be shown in the diagram below.

Figure 1: Matrix Population Process



Intuitively, individuals currently in age class  $i$  contribute to next period's population in two ways: by surviving to age class  $i + 1$ , and by "sending back" children who begin life in age class 1.

To specify population process we can construct the Leslie

matrix as

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} f(1) & f(2) & f(3) & f(4) & \dots & f(i) & \dots & 0 & \dots & f(n) \\ s(1) & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & s(2) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s(3) & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & s(4) & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & s(i) & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & s(n-1) & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

However fertility rates will be zero for women who are either too young or too old to have children. This fact can be captured by setting  $f(i) = 0$  when  $i$  is very low or very high across age classes of the female population, so that  $X_t$  is the distribution of the female population across age classes.

**2.1 Fertility Measures**

The first measure, called the gross reproduction rate(GRR), is defined as

$$GRR = f(1) + f(2) + f(3) + f(4) + \dots + f(n) \quad (3)$$

The second measure is the net reproduction rate(NRR), defined as

$$NRR = S(1)f(1) + S(2)f(2) + S(3)f(3) + s(4)f(4) + \dots + S(n)f(n) \quad (4)$$

where  $S(i) i=1,2,3, \dots, n$  are estimated rates of survival of females from initial age class to  $i^{th}$  age class

**2.1 Projections of Future Populations**

The system of equation given above can now be written as

$$X_{t+1} = L X_t$$

where  $X_t$  is a column vector. Given the initial age distribution  $X_0$ , we obtain

$$X_1 = L X_0$$

$$X_2 = L X_1 = L^2 X_0$$

$$X_3 = L X_2 = L^3 X_0$$

and, hence by induction

$$X_t = L^t X_0 \quad (5)$$

By utilizing the above recurrence relation we can project future population in different age classes.

**2.2 Long Term Growth**

The long term growth of the population can be felt by the following theorem due to Perron-Probenius.

If  $L$  is a non-negative, primitive matrix, then (i) one of its eigenvalues is positive and is greater (in absolute value) than all the other eigenvalues, and (ii) there is a positive eigenvector (i.e., an eigenvector with positive elements) corresponding to that eigenvalue.

The particular eigenvalue described in this theorem is often called the dominant eigenvalue, which is the long term stable growth factor and the corresponding eigenvector is the long time limiting distribution of population.

**3.0 Application to Mising Community of Assam**

The Mising community in Assam whose population by 2001

Census is 587310 is still considered as backward community aggravated with the problems of poverty, unemployment and social and infrastructural inequalities. The community spreads over Lakhimpur (28.30%), Dhemaji. (31.73%),Jorhat (15.71%), Sibsagar (4.07%) , Sonitpur (7.52%) , Dibrugarh (1.59%),Gola-ghat (8.11%) and Tinsukia (2.94 %) in upper Assam. The data employed in this study were obtained by conducting field survey during 2008-10. Cluster Sampling with the probability in proportion to population size of the district is used in the study. The study covers 4764 women of the community. The fertility rates obtained have been put in the Table 1 below

Table 1: Fertility Status of Mising Women

(1) Age Class	(2) ASFR (Total)	(3) ASFR (Female Births)	(4) Survival from birth to age class i	(5) NetASFR (Female Births)
15-19	0.54404	0.27634	0.9569	0.42024
20-24	1.17092	0.59933	0.9503	0.37445
25-29	0.76243	0.38332	0.9430	0.22102
30-34	0.40046	0.19451	0.9336	0.16256
35-39	0.16978	0.07640	0.9147	0.15833
40-44	0.09404	0.06270	0.8980	0.15432
45-49	0.03175	0.01587	0.8841	0.10802
Total	3.17342 (TFR)	1.60847 (GRR)		1.49706 (NRR)

We prepare the following Leslie matrix for Mising women by writing the  $f(i)$  s along the first row and  $S(i)$  s at positions just below the diagonal elements.

The initial distribution of female in different age classes of reproductive span after adjusting the deaths is written in the matrix form as

$$x_0^T = [1431 \ 1335 \ 1257 \ 579 \ 901 \ 1127 \ 874 \ 589 \ 319 \ 315 \ 231 \ 210 \ 217 \ 48 \ 147 \ 51 \ 47 \ 0]$$

With initial age distribution  $X_0^T$ , we straightforwardly compute the age distribution of women for the next 40 periods (representing 200 years) using (5). And then we calculate the growth factors for each period by dividing the size of population in period by the size of population of next period. Growth rates of females successive periods and growth rates from initial period to every progressing period are also obtained. All these growth numbers are listed in the Table 2

Table 2: Marginal and total growth of female in periods

Period	Successive Growth factor	Successive Growth	Growth From Initial Class
1	1.0616	6.1600	6.1590
2	1.0439	4.3900	10.8202
3	1.0313	3.1300	14.2872
4	1.0441	4.4100	19.3359
5	1.0473	4.7300	24.9817
6	1.0434	4.3400	30.4075
7	1.0394	3.9400	35.5504
8	1.0307	3.0700	39.7088
9	1.0251	2.5100	43.2073
10	1.0279	2.7900	47.2085
11	1.0330	3.3000	52.0687
12	1.0352	3.5200	57.4212
13	1.0340	3.4000	62.7841
14	1.0307	3.0700	67.7805
15	1.0286	2.8600	72.5673
16	1.0293	2.9300	77.6265
17	1.0316	3.1600	83.2303
18	1.0333	3.3300	89.3265
19	1.0331	3.3100	95.5902
20	1.0315	3.1500	101.7492
21	1.0301	3.0100	107.8140

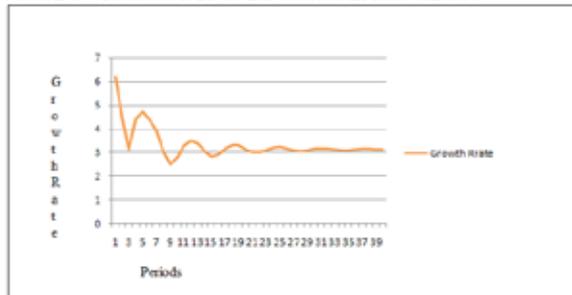
22	1.0301	3.0100	114.0672
23	1.0311	3.1100	120.7290
24	1.0322	3.2200	127.8307
25	1.0324	3.2400	135.2048
26	1.0317	3.1700	142.6626
27	1.0309	3.0900	150.1519
28	1.0306	3.0600	157.8087
29	1.0311	3.1100	165.8217
30	1.0317	3.1700	174.2432
31	1.0319	3.1900	182.9894
32	1.0317	3.1700	191.9556
33	1.0312	3.1200	201.0684
34	1.0310	3.1000	210.3907
35	1.0311	3.1100	220.0587
36	1.0314	3.1400	230.1246
37	1.0316	3.1600	240.5677
38	1.0316	3.1600	251.3250
39	1.0314	3.1400	262.3442
40	1.0314	3.1400	273.6357

Table 3: Growth from initial period to stable growth equilibrium.

Age Class (1)	Initial Distribution (2)	Stable Growth Distribution (3)	Growth Rate from Initial to Stable period (4)
1	0.1299	0.1223	-6.00
2	0.1398	0.1150	-17.74
3	0.1317	0.1073	-18.38
4	0.0606	0.0996	64.52
5	0.0944	0.0917	-2.86
6	0.1243	0.0839	-32.66
7	0.0915	0.0759	-17.27
8	0.0617	0.0673	9.08
9	0.0334	0.0586	76.05
10	0.033	0.0503	53.03
11	0.024	0.0419	75.00
12	0.022	0.0332	50.45
13	0.0227	0.0243	6.61
14	0.005	0.0159	218.00
15	0.0154	0.0086	-44.16
16	0.0053	0.0034	-33.96
17	0.0049	0.0007	-85.71
18	0	0.0001	-

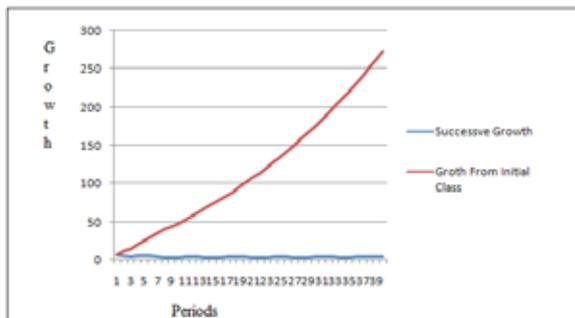
Here we have seen that the women population is indeed converging to a stable growth equilibrium, with a long-run stable growth rate of 3.14 percent per five year period.

Figure 2: Growth rates in each progressing period



After achieving 273.64 per cent growth from initial female population number, it will continue to grow at the stable growth rate of 3.14 per cent per five year period.

Figure 3: Growth rates from initial period to a each progressing period with respect to growth in successive periods



Now let us look into the growth of Mising female of individual age classes from initial period to stable growth equilibrium distribution. The growth rates are presented in the fourth column of the Table 3.

From the Table 3 we have seen that age classes 1,2,3,5,6,7,15,16 and 17 will experience negative growth and age classes 4,9,10,11,12,13 and 14 will experience positive growth. Highest growth of 218 per cent will be in the age class 14.

**4.0 Conclusion**

The fertility of the age group 20-25 is highest in Mising and the TFR of Mising is 3.17 which is slightly higher than the TFR of all India tribals of 3.12. The NRR of Mising women is found to be 1.50 which indicates that Mising population will grow in future. Here we find that the women population of Mising is indeed converging to a stable growth equilibrium with a long-run stable growth rate of 3.14 percent per five year period. The growth of population still continues to be alarming which needs a special attention of the authorities concerned to resolve and address the situation.

The Matrix Population Model is a fair innovation in mathematics, and it has been found to be very useful in determining population growth. There are many studies available to model non-human population by Leslie Matrix, but few attempts are made to model human population by it. By using fertility rates, survival rates, and base population for a given population, this model can be used to calculate growth of human population also. The model can also be effectively used to determine whether the given population will increase or decrease in each age class over a long period of time and also to project future population.

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