



Population Growth and Distribution in Developed & Developing Countries and among Major Regions & Continents of the World; Past, Present & Future Trends

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ABSTRACT *Population Growth and Distribution in Developed & Developing Countries and among Major Regions and Continents of the World; Past, Present & Future Trend; presented in this study which is based mainly on data compiled and published by different stake holders. According to the medium variant of the United Nations projections the world's population will reach eight billion in 2023, nine billion in 2050, and ten billion around 2100. Examining estimates of total and per capita income we must be impressed with the wide difference between the wealthiest and the poorest countries. The developed countries having the highest average incomes have undergone industrialization and modernization of the economy; the developing countries with lowest incomes are those with a predominance of agriculture in most cases. Data shows that the disparity between the prosperity of the industrial countries and poverty of the preindustrial countries was increasing in the last two decades. Balancing the population, focusing on development and disparity is the present task of planners.*

The population of the world was 791 million in the year 1750, of which 624 million (78.8 per cent) were living in developing countries and the remaining 160 million (21.20 per cent) in developed countries. In 1800, of the total world population (978 million), 766 million (78.3 per cent) were living in developing countries and the remaining 212 million (21.70 per cent) were living in developed countries of the world.

Though there is constant growth of population both in developing and developed countries of the world, the percentage of population living in developed and developing countries changed from the year 1900. Of the total world population, the proportion of population living in developing countries started increasing, while it was decreasing in developed countries from the year 1900.

About 80 percent of world population growth from 1900-1975 took place in the developing countries as does 97 per cent at present. The population of the developing countries grew, between 1950-1999, from 1.71 billion to 4.80 billion people, an increase of 168 per cent. The population of developing countries is projected to increase by another 78 per cent, to 8.3 billion people by 2050 A.D.

The population growth rates of the developing countries followed an upward trend from 1950 to 1970 and the growth rate peaking at 2.52 per cent between 1965-1970. But after 1975 the population growth rate of the developing countries has been falling; it reached 1.77 per cent in the first half of the 1990s, is expected to be 1.65 between 1995-2000 and is projected to fall further to 0.55 per cent by 2045-2050. As per as average annual population increments are concerned between 1950-1955, 37 million people were added annually which rose to 80 million people by 1980s. After 1990, the annual population increments have fallen to 76 million and it remained virtually stable at 78 million between 1995-2010, and then fall to 44 million by 2045-2050.

On the other hand, the developed countries of the world exhibited since 1950 a combination of almost constantly falling growth rates together with increasing population size. Between 1950-1999, the population of developed countries increased from 813 million to about 1.18 billion. Growth rates fell between 1950 and 1999 from 1.21 per cent to 0.40 per cent. The growth rates are expected to decline further in the coming years and become negative after 2025 and arrive at

0.23 per cent. As a result, the population size of the developed countries will continue to increase, at declining speed, until 2025, when it will reach 1.22 billion people and decline thereafter. The population in 2050 is projected to be 1.16 billion people the size, it had in 1992.

The demographic indicators such as birth rate, natural increase of population, infant mortality, total fertility rate and expectation of life at birth also shows wide variations in developed and developing countries. For instance the birth rate in the developing countries is 26 per 1000 population as against 11 in the developed countries. Similarly, the percentage of annual natural increase in the developed countries is 0.1 per cent while it is 1.7 in developing countries of the world

Table.1 – Population Distribution in Developed and Developing Countries (1750-2050)

year	World population (Million)	Developed Countries		Developing Countries	
		Population (Million)	percentage	Population (Million)	percentage
1750	791	167	21.20	624	78.8
1800	978	212	21.70	766	78.3
1850	1268	304	24.20	964	75.8
1900	1650	496	30.10	1154	69.9
1950	2524	732	29.00	1792	71.0
1999	5982	1181	19.74	4800	80.26
2010	6883	1216	17.66	5667	82.34
2025	8054	1241	15.40	6813	84.60
2050	9367	1068	11.40	8299	88.60

The infant mortality rate in developed countries of the world is 8 per 1000 live births as against 62 in developing countries of the world. On an average each family in the developed countries of the world is having 1.5 children while in the developing countries each family consists of 3.2 children. 72 per cent of the married women are using various contraceptive methods in developed countries while only 55 percent of married women in developing countries are using contra-

On an average, a person in developed countries lives for 75 years while in developing countries the life expectancy is only 64 years. The population of developed countries would be doubled for every 583 years at current rate of growth of population. On the other hand, the population of the developing countries would be doubled for every 40 years.

In this way wide variations are found in demographic scenario of the developed and developing countries. The other socioeconomic indicators also reflect the prevailing poor socio-economic situation in the developing countries of the world. The density of population is 60 per square mile in developed countries as against 150 persons per square mile in developing countries. 75 per cent of the populations in developed countries are living in urban areas while only 37 per cent of the populations are living in urban areas in developing countries. The per capita GNP in developed countries is US \$20,350 as against US \$ 1,330 in developing countries of the world till recently.

As a result of the marked differences in the growth patterns between developed and developing countries, the proportion of people living in the developed and developing countries, has changed and will continue to change significantly. While in 1950 almost one out of three persons in the world was living in developed countries (32 per cent), it has changed to 1 out of 5 (20 per cent) in 1999. In the future, the proportion of people living in developed countries will continue to fall and it is projected that 12 per cent of the world population will reside in developed countries of the world by 2050.

At present, 80 per cent of the world population is living in developing countries, of the world as against 20 per cent in developed countries of the world. 97 per cent of all population growth occurs in the developing countries of world as against 3 per cent in developed countries of the world. Similarly, 78 million persons are added to the world every year, out of which 74 million (95 per cent) are originated in the developing countries, of the world as against 4 million (5 per cent) people originated from the developed countries of the world. The populations of 65 countries are expected to double in 30 years or less. 86 countries are unable to grow or purchase enough food to provide their populations with minimum daily calorie requirement. Approximately 1.3 billion people live in absolute poverty, on the equivalent of US dollar or less per day.

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

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 in between 1950-1999 from 56 per cent to 61 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers in 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 consist 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 an-

num. 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 in 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 per cent of the world population in 1950 which fell to 13 per cent 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 1966 size, Europe's share of the world population will have further declined from 22 per cent in 1950 to 7 per cent in 2050.

Table.2 – Population Growth and Distribution in the Major Regions of the World in between 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 in 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 per cent 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.

Table.3- Recent Population trend (2011)

Continent	Density Per km2	Population (2011)	Most populous Country	Most populous city in that Continent
Asia	86.7	4,140,336,501	China (1,341,403,687)	Tokyo (35,676,000)
Africa	32.7	994,527,534	Nigeria (152,217,341)	Cairo (19,439,541)
Europe	70	738,523,843	Russia (143,300,000; about. 110 million in Europe)	Moscow (14,837,510)
North America	22.9	528,720,588	United States (313,485,438)	Mexico City (8,851,080)
South America	21.4	527,721,687	Brazil (190,732,694)	Sao Paulo (19,672,582)
Oceania	4.25	36,102,071	Australia (22,612,355)	Sydney (4,575,532)
Antarctica	0.0003	4,490	—	McMurdo Station (955)

Conclusion:

The population issue is fraught with moral positions, confusion, and unexpected connections. We cannot talk about population growth without also discussing decline; or immigration, without climate and business; or contraception, without faith and medical technology. It is the mother of cross-cutting issues-at the intersection of economics, environment, gender roles, culture, politics, and religion. The issue is global. 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 degradation. Undoubtedly, focus should be on the population growth reduction. But at the same time, policies and programs should focus on balancing the population between developed and developing countries; among the major regions & continents of the world with appropriate policies and programs by the stake holders is the need of the hour.

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