

Past, Present and Future Trends of Population Growth in Developed and Developing Countries



Economics

KEYWORDS :

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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.

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 Population percentage (Million)		Developing Countries Population percentage (Million)	
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

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 per cent between 1995-2000 and is projected to fall further to 0.55 per cent by 2045-2050. As far 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 will remain 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

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 contraception.

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 socio-economic 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 population in developed countries are living in urban areas while only 37 per cent of the population 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 percent) 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 population 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.

REFERENCE

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