

Population Growth in India

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Abstract: *The population growth in India may overtake China by the year 2030. The National Population Policy of India targets population stabilization in India by the year 2045. The present paper carries out objective analysis of the population growth in India in terms of change in specific growth. At the present rate of specific growth rate decline, the population by the end of the century will be 2.49 billion. For the population to achieve zero growth by the year 2045, a decline in specific growth rate will have to be achieved at the rate of 0.000428 per year.*

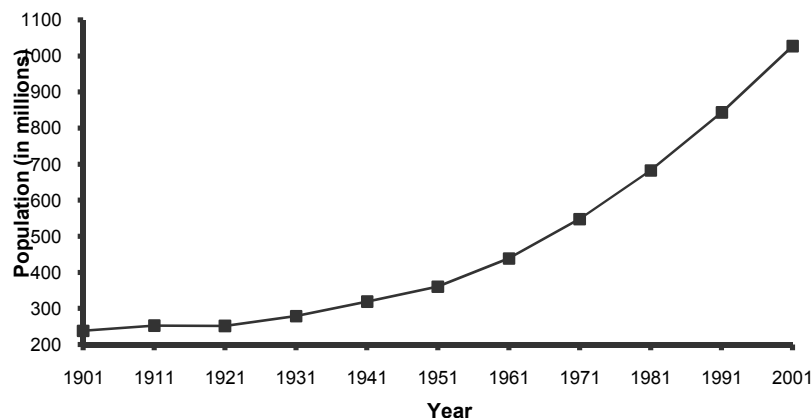
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I. INTRODUCTION

India is one of the most populous countries of the world, next only to China. The National Population Policy-2000 aims at stabilizing the population by the year 2045 (Sharma 2003; National Population Policy-2000, 2003; and National Commission on Population 2000)¹⁻³. The UN report, 2005, however paints a gloomy picture for India in its document 'Population Challenges and Development Goals'. As per the current UN projections, India will overtake China by the year 2030, though as per the earlier UN reports India had been projected to overtake China by the year 2050. With the fast depleting resources, it becomes mandatory to control the population growth within limits so as to ensure better standard of living and to conserve its resources for the generations to come. It therefore becomes imperative to have an objective analysis of the population growth in India as per its immediate past trends and socio cultural perspectives, so as to formulate an effective population control policy.

II. POPULATION GROWTH

The specific growth rate is the difference between specific natality rate, and the specific death rate. The specific growth rate when the resources are unlimited is called the intrinsic rate of natural increase. The exponential growth of population assumes that the specific growth remains constant over the period of study. The growth of human population in India during the last century was nearly exponential.

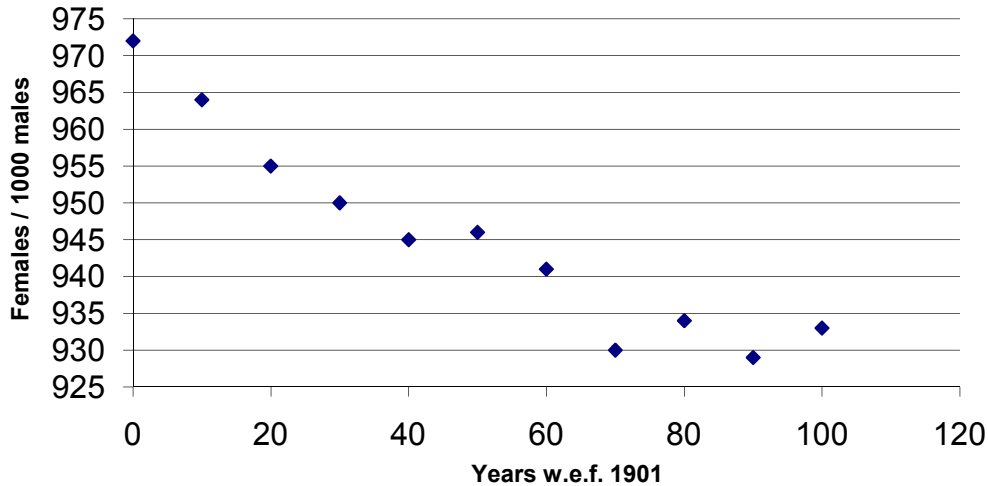


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III. SPECIFIC GROWTH RATE

The specific growth rate has declined over the last two. The present communication discusses the trend of variation of human population in India in terms of decline in specific growth rate with a view to achieve population stabilization.

The population stabilization would require regulating the instantaneous specific growth rate through rigorous family planning measures. Assume that time targeted measures are adopted to follow a linear decline.



Sex Ratio Decline in India (1901-2001)

Another disturbing feature in India is sex ratio decline from 972 females per 1000 males in 1901 to 933 females per 1000 males in 2001. The preference for the male child in India has been responsible for this decline. Though the last decade recorded a slight improvement in the sex ratio, the trend need to be reversed in favour of the female, for a balanced social development.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is, therefore, concluded that more stringent population planning measures will have to be adopted to keep the population growth in India under control. Eradication of poverty, compulsory education for all and incentives for the girl child will be pivotal for restricted and balanced population growth in India.

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