

Population Explosion and Population Education with Special Reference to North-East India

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Abstract

India is the second-largest populated country in the world. The population of India occupies 2.4% of the world's land area and represents 17.5% of the world's population. This shows that one out of six people on this planet is an Indian. This means that India face the rapid increase in the number of people where the economy of India facing the problems to cope up with the rapid growth of the people. In simpler words, it is a situation of population explosion in India where the too much population is trapping people in a web of poverty and illiteracy. In this projection to help the country to control the population explosion and to provide good results in several other things like good environment, abundant natural resources, proper employment, and proper literacy rate with high growth in development the quality population education is utmost necessary.

Keywords- Population explosion, population education, population control, poverty, illiteracy etc.

Introduction

Population explosion refers to a situation when the growth rate of population exceeds the rate of growth of supportive capacity of the land or resource and a country find very difficult to provide the large force of additional population with the basic needs of life-Food, Cloth, Shelter and employment. Population explosion therefore is a situation when population starts growing at such a pace that the existing knowing resources of a country fall short of the requirements for leading a reasonably decent life style.

Population Education is an exploration of knowledge and attitudes about population, family living, sex and basic value. This means educating the students about the large and ever-increasing population and the problems which are created by this phenomenon. Population education plays pivotal role to control and remedy the issues of population explosion.

The present study “Population Explosion and Population Education” wants to focus the menace of population explosion and its causes and the role of population education to remedy these problems in North-east India.

India is the second largest populous country in the world but the growing rate of population is top in the world. It is estimated by the United Nations that India with 1.3 billion inhabitants would surpass China's population of 1.4 billion by 2024 to become the world's most populous country.

Goel studies show, the population growing rate in North-east is slightly higher than the country as a whole. The population explosion enormously fuels to most of the North-east India's burning problems like unemployment, rural poverty, low living standard, erosion of forest, ethnic conflict over land rights, emergence of extremist group and environment degradation. It will be the worth mentioning that the North-

east Indian States frequently involve in conflict among its. E.g., the Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh are always trying to seize Assam's land which is one of the consequence of population explosion.

Objectives of the studies:

1. To study the causes of population explosion in north east India.
2. To study the role of population education in reducing population explosion.
3. To find out some measures to control of population explosion.
4. To study the progress and prospect of population education to control population explosion.

Hypotheses of the studies:

1. People are not fully aware about the problems of population explosion.
2. Population education does not reach the vast areas of people.

3. Lack of adequate measures to control population explosion.
4. The role of population education to control the population explosion is highly significant and utmost.

Methodology:

To validate the above mention hypotheses Case study Approach of some particular areas are explored and primary and secondary data are collected and analyzed.

Sources of primary data:

To accomplish this study, Mulanpur Gaon of Dhemaji district and Tinthengia and Bhogpur Gaon of Lakhimpur district are selected as a sample and direct discussion also made with some particular Leader of different communal and ethnic group of Assam.

Finding: From the primary data following facts are found.

Table no 1.

Village- Mulanpur under Jonai sub division Dhemaji	
Community-	Mising
Single Family	8
Joint Family	11
Total Family	19
Total Children (age 1 to 12)	56
Adult	237
Total population	293
Illiterate father	9
Illiterate mother	11
Number of awareness parent about population education/ family planning	4

(Which families live together with parent and two Mauritius sons considered here as joint family)

Table no 2.

Village- Tinthengia , Bongalmara , Lakhimpur	
Community	Muslim
Single Family	88
Joint family	32
Total family	120

Total children(age 1 to 12)	490
Adult	787
Total population	1277
Illiterate father	58
Illiterate mother	87
Number of parent aware about population education/ family planning	38

(Which families live together with parent and two Mauritius sons are considered here as joint family)

Table no 3.

Village- Bhogpur , Narayanpur, Lakhimpur district	
Community	Assamese
Single Family	312
Joint Family	18
Total family	330
Total children(1 to 12)	189
Adult(12 to onward)	1089
Total population	1278
Total literate father	324
Total literate mother	311
Number of parent aware about population education/ family planning	323

(Which families live together with parent and two Mauritius sons considered here as joint family)

The above tables show, the village Mulanpur has 19 families and their are 293 inhabitanes and the village Tinthengia has 120 families and there are 1277 inhabitanes. But Bhogpur has 330 families and there are 1278 inhabitanes. The family size of Village Bhogpur is comparatively smaller size than Mulanpur and Tinthengia. There are various reasons were found behind here. These are categories in following types:-

Economic factors:-

1. **Poverty:** Most of the family found here are poor. A poor man always welcomes further addition to his family size for supplementing his family income. This has led to high rate of growth of population. The poor have no other economic asset than their own labor and more the number of earners in the family's income. Chronic hunger makes sex

important enough to compensate emotionally for the shrunken nutritional appetite.

2. **Predominance of Agriculture:** Most of the families are engaged in agriculture. In agriculture society children are never considered as an economic burden rather they are supporting various agricultural activities during the peak period.

Social Factors:-

1. **Practice of early marriage:** Practice of early marriage is very much common in above mention community. In India over 50% of girls marry below the age of 18, the minimum reproductive pattern of too early, too frequent, too many.
2. **Illiteracy:** due to the illiteracy of the parent they do not able to change their attitudes towards marriages, family, birth of child etc. and help the people to shed

irrational ideas and religious superstitions.

From the secondary data following fact are found:

Biological Factor:

1. **Sharp fall in death rate:** In India the death rate has sharply fallen during the first half of the twenty century, i.e., from 42.6 per thousand in 1901-11 to 12.8 per thousand in 1951-61.
2. **No substantial fall in the birth rate.** The birth rate of India did not fall substantially. The birth rate in India declined marginally for 49.2 per thousand in 1901-11 to 41.7 in 1951-61 and then 27.4 per thousand in 1996. Due to this maintenance of birth rate to a very high level, the rate of growth of population in India remained all along high.

Social Factors:-

1. **Universality of marriage:** Marriage is almost universal in India as it is religious and social necessity of the country. Parents feel that it is their social obligation to arrange marriage for the daughters. Thus presently in India, about 76 percent of the women of their reproductive age are married and by attaining the age of 50 only 5 out of 1000 Indian women remain unmarried. Hence, this has resulted to a very high birth rate.
2. **Ignorance and lack of conscious family planning:** lack of conscious family planning along with lack of birth control devices, more particularly in the rural areas the population growing rate is high in India.

Other Factor:

1. **Immigration:** growing immigration of population from the neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal etc is raising the growth rate of population in India. This

problem of immigration is very much acute in Assam and north-eastern states.

2. **Tropical climate:** Due to tropical climate, puberty of women in India starts at an early age leading to a large number of births.

All the above mentioned causes of population explosion are linkage with education. The above mentioned table also shows that the village Bhogpur literacy rate and the number of awareness population about population education and family planning are enormously larger than other two villages. So here numbers of populations are less.

The role of population education to control the population explosion:

The role of population education in controlling the population explosion is highly significant. To control the population explosion the attitudes and values of people have to be changed. It is only possible through education. There is an inverse correlation between the spread of education and fertility. The findings of Operations Research Group Survey show that birth rates in general are lower and adoption of family planning norms become more popular in those states where education is more widespread. Further due to lack of education, the response of rural population in respect of adoption of family planning norms and use of contraceptives are not all encouraging. The people of India are very much ignorant about the biology of reproduction, need for birth control and devices of birth control specially in north-east India due to lack of proper population education. Which countries have properly implemented population education there population growth rate is decreased day by day. As for example we can mention the world's most populous country China. Due to the impact of population education China has been successful in bringing down the birth

rate to 21 per thousand at present whereas it is 31 per thousand in India.

After implementation of population education in India it is found that the population growth rate is declining in the West, East and South zones whereas it has slightly increased in the north-east zone 0.04% to 0.5%. There was negligible increase in population growth rate in NE regions. Nagaland recorded an exceptionally very higher population growth rate which is to the extent of 4.4 percent from 1991-2001. The

growth rate of Nagaland is more than 3 times as compared to India's population rate. Several studies Bhyuyan's, Goel, Pandey's, have shown that the main reason for high population growth rate in NE states is due to influx of population from the neighboring countries and other states of the country. Prior to the independence the population growth of NE was high as compared with country as a whole. Following table shows it:

Population growth rate in north-east and India (1901 to 1971)

Year	NE growth rate	Country growth rate
1971	19.60	35.09
1961	14.50	41.33
1951	10.30	19.06
1941	8.60	20.5
1931	7.20	19.44
1921	6.00	18.71
1911	5.10	18.71
1901	4.30	16.03

The states which have recorded high birth rate are Meghalaya-28.7/1000 and Assam- 27/1000 as compared to all India figure of 26/1000. The main reason of this is lack of proper implementation of population education in North-east India. Population education has assumed enormous importance in the national and international arena, since population change influence the quality of life of individuals, families, the nation and the world as a whole. Population education has special significance in India because young person below the age of 15 from about 40% of the total population. By providing adequate information about population education illiterate people can be made aware of the benefits of having small family.

Remedies for population explosion:

To control the population explosion broadly four-fold measure would be much

required: (A) Economic measures, (B) Social measures, (C) Family planning measures and (D) Administrative measure.

- A. **Economic measures:** To contain the pace of growth of population in India economic measures can offer a permanent solution to the problem. Considering the gravity of the situation, the most of the economic measures require being included are long-term in nature. These are as follows:
 1. **Modernization of agriculture:** Modernizations of agriculture increase the productions which raise the standard of living of the rural people which will again reduce the birth rate indirectly.
 2. **Industrial development:** growing industrializations increase the urge of industrial workers to raise their standard of living which in tune will motivate them to restrict the size of their family.
 3. **Removal of poverty and ensuring minimum economic amenities:** poor people normally

remain unconcerned about limiting the size of their families. Once the poor people are assured of the basic economic amenities of life their attitudes towards their families will also undergo a sea change.

B. **Social measures:** population explosion is also resulted from some social evils. Following social measure are to be undertake:

1. **Speed of education:** speed of education can play an effective role in checking the growth rate of population. Education and general enlightenment of the people can create desire for smaller families. Education can make a frontal attack on superstitions and orthodoxy and also includes people to go for late marriage and to adopt family planning.
2. **Improvement of status of women:** increasing employment of women and the improvement of their social status can effectively reduce the birth rate.

C. **Family planning measures:** following are some family planning measures

1. **Arousing consciousness:** through public information programme, people should be made more conscious about the usefulness of family planning programme.
2. **Family Planning centre:** opening family planning centre throughout country.
3. **Research:** in the family planning programme more importance is stressed on conducting research in the area like demography, reproductive biology, fertility control etc.

D. **Administrative measure:**

1. **Introduction of two child norm:** The government of India should demand some approve the two-child norm and put sever restrictions on limiting the size of family as it is done in China.
2. **Incentives and disincentives:** the government should introduce various incentives schemes for adopting small family norm such as cash incentive, preference for employment, preference for promotion etc. likewise, in respect

of violation of the family planning norms, disincentives schemes should be introduced for withdrawing these incentives totally.

3. **To stop influx of population:** a significant portion of the increase in the population of the country is due to continuous immigration of population from the neighboring countries. Thus this influx of population in the form of infiltration should be stopped completely and proper steps should be devised to check this large scale infiltration. These steps include- sealing of international border, creation of no-man's land, increased patrolling, and imposition of new curfew on border areas and to tone up border administration effective.

Thus to control this high rate of growth of population in India all the above-mentioned four-fold measures should be introduced simultaneously.

Conclusion:

The greatest threat to the mankind's existence is from the unchecked multiplication of own species. The uneven distribution of population in the India has severally affected the fragile ecological balance and has brought in its wake problems like unemployment, demand of separate land; pollution etc. population explosion is the biggest problem which has drawn attention of the all concerned. As the most urgent need of the time there is expansion of population education has to done to tackle the situation. Population education is an educational process. It is desired to help people to understand the nature, the causes and consequences of population growth. Population education teaches the students to realize their responsibility regarding the population situation of a family, a community, a country and the world. Besides, it helps to change their behavior. It also helps man to live a happy, better and quality life. Thus, population education is necessary to make the

people aware of their duties and responsibilities and to make them act accordingly.

50 percent of the world's citizens are under the age of 24. Looking towards the future, projection show that the world population will continue to increase and by the year 2050 it will be 10.7 billion. In this regards population education is very essential to prepare the young

to face this challenge. 97 percent of world population increase occurs in the less develop country due to the lack of awareness of these country's people about population education. These countries have not taken proper steps for implement of population education. Except China following countries prove it:

Country	Population(in million mid-1998)	Total fertility rate	Natural increase (%) per year)	Contraceptive prevalence (%)
China	1,256	1.8	1.0	83
India	982	3.4	1.9	41
Indonesia	206	2.7	1.5	55
Brazil	166	2.5	1.4	77
Pakistan	148	5.6	2.8	18
Bangladesh	125	3.3	1.8	49
Nigeria	106	3.1	2.2	65
Mexico	96	3.6	2.2	48
Egypt	66	3.6	2.2	48

The above discussion proves that population explosion is a menace to mankind's existence. In this aspect the role of population education to control this problem is significant and utmost. Developed countries are become capable to decrease the population growth rate by implement population education in large scale but less developed country are lag behind it because there have not proper implementation of population education.

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