

**COURSE –XI (1.4.11) ENVIRONMENT AND POPULATION
EDUCATION**

POPULATION DYNAMICS IN INDIA

**DR. JAYASHRI ROY, ASST PROF,
VTT COLLEGE, MIDNAPORE**

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Course - XI (1.4.11) optional
Environmental and Population Education ①
"POPULATION DYNAMICS IN INDIA"

Introduction:

India, the second most populous country in the world, presents a fascinating and complex case study in population dynamics. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion as of the latest estimates, the country's demographic trends are shaped by a multitude of factors, including its diverse cultural heritage, varied economic landscape and significant regional disparities. Understanding population dynamics is crucial for policymakers, economists and social scientists, as it directly influences the nation's economic development, social structure and environmental sustainability. Population dynamics in India involve the study of how the population size, structure and distribution change over time due to factors such as birth rates, death rates, migration and social policies. Here are some key points about

population dynamics in India:

a. Population Size and Growth:-

- India is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of over 1.4 billion people as of 2023.
- The population growth rate has been declining over the past few decades due to decreasing fertility rates.
- Despite the decline in growth rate, India's population is expected to continue increasing for several more decades due to the large base population.

b. Fertility and Birth Rates

- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India has been a significant decline from about 6 children per woman in the 1950s to around 2.0 as of recent years.
- The decline in fertility is attributed to factors such as increased access to education, family planning services, and urbanization.
- Some regions particularly in northern states like UP & Bihar, still have higher fertility rates compared to southern states.

c. Mortality and Life expectancy

- Life expectancy in India has increased substantially from around 32 years in 1950 to over 70 years today.
- The infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also decreased, but there are still disparities between urban and rural areas.
- Improvements in healthcare, nutrition and Sanitation have contributed to these trends.

d. Migration

- Internal migration is significant in India, with many people moving from rural to urban areas in search of better opportunities.
- Major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore have seen substantial population growth due to this rural to urban migration.
- International migration also plays a role, with many Indians living abroad, particularly in the Middle East, the United States and UK.

e. Age Structure & Dependency Ratio

- India has a relatively young population with a median age of about 28 years.
- The country is experiencing a demographic dividend, where the working-age population is larger than the dependent population.
- However, the dependency ratio is expected to increase as the population ages in the coming decades.

f. Urbanization

- Urbanization is a major trend in India, with an increasing proportion of the population living in urban areas.
- This shift has implications for infrastructure, housing, employment and the environment.

g. Gender Dynamics

- The sex ratio in India has been skewed due to a cultural preference for male children, leading to

gender imbalances in some regions.

• However, there are efforts to address this through government initiatives and changing social attitudes.

h. Policy & Planning

• Family planning: The Govt. promotes various programmes to control population growth, including awareness campaigns and contraceptive distribution.

• Social policies: Broader social policies, including education, health care, and poverty alleviation, indirectly influence population dynamics by impacting fertility rates and mortality rates.

Conclusion

India's population dynamics are crucial not only for the country itself but also for global trends, given India's significant share of world's population. The interplay of various factors like fertility rates, urbanization and policy interventions will shape the future trajectory of India's population.