

Original Article

Population and Economic Development

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Abstract - The population of any nation decides both its direction and condition. The population has a huge role in the progress of the nation. The economic and social status of the citizens is reflected in the policy and rules of the nation. It's very accurate that national leadership determines national growth. There was a time when the population was considered detrimental to the country's economic progress. Many countries like China, Japan etc., had made such strict rules regarding population that their population had stopped somewhere. In our country India too, many measures were taken regarding population control. But today, when the economic development of developed countries is being assessed, somewhere, their anti-population policy is proving to be a hindrance to their economic development. Therefore, the same countries that were strict about population growth are taking various measures to increase the population. Today it has been proved that it is not the population but its unbalanced operation that hinders the nation's economic development. The population is a boon for the country's growth; its proper use and compliance in the right direction are necessary. Every country can climb the stairs of development with limited resources only based on its population. This study of mine is an attempt at how we can turn the population in the right direction so that it can make the country advanced in every aspect without hindering the economic progress of the country.

Keywords - National progress, Economic development, Population, Awareness.

1. Introduction

Whenever we talk about the economic development of the country, then technologically advanced city, greenery, a developed and prosperous society, happy family, and modern lifestyle comes to mind. High lifestyles are indicative of economic progress. Economic progress determines the progress of the country. The people are the main source of this economic growth. This has been clearly written in the NCERT textbook, "Looking at the population from this productive aspect emphasizes its ability to contribute to the creation of the Gross National Product. Like other resources, the population also is a resource — a human resource. The positive side of a large population is often overlooked when we look only at the negative side, considering only the problems of providing the population with food, education and access to health facilities. When the existing human resource is further developed by becoming more educated and healthier, we call it human capital formation that adds to the productive power of the country just like physical capital formation."

In the UN report, it is said that "A youthful population presents an opportunity for accelerated economic growth on a per capita basis if countries where the population is growing to achieve a substantial and sustained decline in the fertility level rapidly, leading to an increased concentration of the population in the working-age range. The increased share of the population in the working ages can support an accelerated rise in income per capita; a phenomenon referred to as the demographic dividend."

As the NCERT textbook mentions, "Countries like Japan have invested in human resources. They did not have any natural resources. They import the natural resource needed in their country. They have invested in people, especially in the field of education and health. These people have made efficient use of other resources, like land and capital. Efficiency and the technology evolved by people have made these countries rich/developed."

2. Objectives

In this study, those objectives of economic progress have been shown, due to which population and development are reflected in front of us as complementary to each other. The main objectives of this study are:

1. To tell about how the population is helpful in the country's economic development.
2. To look out for the reasons hindering the country's economic development.
3. To show that both the population and economy are supportive of each other.

3. Methodology (Methods & Procedures)

The study aims to show that not the population but other factors are responsible for the country's economic collapse. So, this study is based on data and statements released by the government and scholars. The points will be based on observation and analysis. The descriptive method has been used.



4. Review of Literature

4.1. About the Population of India

4.1.1. Population Projection Report 2011-36

The report of the National Health Mission says, "Population projections can alert policymakers to major trends affecting economic development and help policymakers craft policies that can be adapted under various circumstances. The population of India is expected to increase from 121.1 crores to 152.2 crores during the period 2011-2036 - an increase of 25.7 percent in twenty-five years at the rate of 1.0 percent annually. As a consequence, the density of population will increase from 368 to 463 persons per square kilometer."

National Health Mission further stated, "Between 2011 and 2036, because of the declining fertility, the proportion of the population aged under 15 years is projected to decline from 30.9 to 20.1 percent; the proportion of the middle age-group (15- 59 years) and the older ages (60 years and above) are set to increase considerably. With the declining fertility, along with the increases in life expectancy, the number of older persons in the population is expected to increase by more than double from 10 crores in 2011 to 23 crores in 2036 - an increase in their share of the total population from 8.4 to 14.9 percent. The population proportion in the working age group 15-59 years is expected to rise from 60.7 percent in 2011 to 64.9 percent in 2036. Another important consequence of the declining fertility will be that, at the national level, the population in the school-going age of 5-14 years expect to decline from 25.4 crores in 2011 to 20.9 crores in 2036. The share of the population aged 5-14 years to the total population of all ages is expected to decrease by 7.2 percent from 21.0 percent in 2011 to 13.8 percent in 2036. The youth population in the age- group 15-24 years is expected to increase from 23.3 crores in 2011 to 25.1 crores in 2021 and then continue to decrease to 22.9 crores in 2036. Its proportion to the total population is expected to fall from 19.3 percent in 2011 to 15.1 percent in 2036. From the above, it is evident that 50.2 percent of the population in the country was aged 24 years and below in 2011, constituting 30.9 percent and 19.3 percent in the ages 0-14 years and 15-24 years, respectively. The combined proportion of these two age groups is expected to fall from 50.2 percent in 2011 to 35.3 percent in 2036 (20.2 percent in the ages 0-14 years and 15.1 percent in the ages 15-24 years). The median age of Indians expects to be of 34.5 years in 2036, as compared to 24.9 years in 2011. Out of the total population increase of 31.1 crores between 2011 and 2036, the share of the workers in the age-group 15-59 years in this total increase is 81.4 percent. It implies the availability of labor in future. It is observed from the said population pyramids that in 2011, older cohorts were smaller than younger cohorts. Subsequently, with the decline in fertility, the pyramid's base in 2036 would narrow down while the middle would be broadened. The international agencies which make projections for the world and for individual countries are the

United Nations Population Division (UNPD), the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) etc."

4.2. China's Birth Rate

Wion news states, "Experts say China's birth rate is expected to drop below 10 million in 2022 from last year's 10.6 million—already down 11.5 per cent from 2020, "Reuters news agency. In 2021, China's rate was 1.16, below the 2.1 OECD standard for a stable population, making it among the lowest in the world."

To boost its population growth, China has taken many various steps. According to Wion news, "After dropping its one-child policy in 2015, the authorities introduced the three-child policy in 2021, aimed to prevent a steep decline in the birth rate. Apart from that, Beijing has also introduced various sops to encourage couples to have more children. These measures include tax deductions, longer maternity leave, enhanced medical insurance, housing subsidies, extra money for a third child and a crackdown on expensive private tutoring."

4.3. People and Economy

Yanjiu writes, "Man is a producer as well as a consumer, and to balance the rate of production and the rate of consumption, a certain population level must be maintained." According to him, "Population policy must be developed according to the following guidelines:

- 1) It must be based on the society's economic development;
- 2) Since economy and population are closely related, they must both be worked on at the same time; and
- 3) Both the quantity and quality of life of the population must also be worked on at the same time.

Dealing with the relationship between population and the economic development of society can bring about rapid improvement in that society's economic development and standard of living properly."

According to the NCERT textbook, "India's Green Revolution is a dramatic example of how the input of greater knowledge in the form of improved production technologies can rapidly increase the productivity of scarce land resources. India's IT revolution is a striking instance of how the importance of human capital has come to acquire a higher position than that of material, plant and machinery."

4.4. The factors which hinder the Economic Development of the Country

According to an article published in tutor2u,

- ✓ "Poor infrastructure
- ✓ Human capital inadequacies
- ✓ Primary product dependency
- ✓ Declining terms of trade
- ✓ Savings gap; inadequate capital accumulation
- ✓ Foreign currency gap and capital flight
- ✓ Corruption, poor governance, the impact of civil war
- ✓ Population issues"

It does not come out anywhere that overpopulation hinders the country's economic development, not population but wrong management and policies block economic development.

Awdeh and Hamadi study the "Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, taking a sample of 18 MENA countries, during the period 2002–2016." According to them, "The paper finds that public borrowing, trade deficit, military expenditures, the low level of technological innovation, population, political turbulences and corruption, all hinder GDP in the long-run. Additionally, public debt, military spending and political instability obstruct GDP in the short run. The results also suggest the existence of Dutch diseases in both the short- and the long run. On the other hand, labour market conditions do not seem to have any effect on the economic performance of the MENA countries."

5. Results and Discussions

Population growth leads to economic development in various ways. The more the number of people more is the production of goods. Labor productivity contributes the highest and directly to the national capital. A large population does not just increase producers but also increases buyers. The more buyers, the less expensive the products are. And not just the products, the services provided will be cheaper too. In short, the rate will be low, the availability of goods and services will be faster, and thus sales will be faster, and as a result, the economy will be higher with time.

Slower, but sooner, countries realize the value of their people or population. Many countries in recent times have taken several steps to increase it. Like, China terminated the one-child policy implemented in 1980 in 2016 by seeing a rapid decline in the birth rate. Now China allows having up to three children. Also, Russia, which covers the largest part of the earth, is facing a steep decline in population after the Ukraine-Russia war. The Russian government has come up with an action plan until 2025, under which they aim to reduce infant mortality and boost their birth rate. They have also revived the 'Mother Heroine Award', where the Russian mother who gives birth to 10 or more children will be awarded a gold medal decorated with the Russian flag and a one-time payment of about 13 lakh rupees. A country like Japan also faces similar problems. The government of Japan has implemented several policies to promote family planning and has aimed to stay above 100 million. In today's time, every country understands the value of its people and needs them in different sectors; whether in the defence field or business, human resources are required everywhere.

5.1. Low Birth Rate Cause of Concern

The basis of the economic progress of every country is its youth. Today there are many countries where the birth rate is falling. A lower birth rate means less youth power. Japan, China like country, which climbed the ladder of economic progress based on its population, is today worried

because of the lack of the birth rate. China, which made a strict policy to stop its growing population, today is making many efforts to increase the population by eliminating the same policies.

Japan is also moving towards population growth by changing its policies. Japan lacks resources. Today, only based on his technology, it is waving its flag in the world. But today he is also worried about his population. The people who were a strong pillar for his economic progress are slowing down in the coming days. He is taking many measures to increase the population.

5.2. Measures to Prove a Boon to the Economy

According to the NCERT textbook, "The quality of population depends upon the literacy rate, health of a person indicated by life expectancy and skill formation acquired by the people of the country. The quality of the population ultimately decides the growth rate of the country. A literate and healthy population are an asset." There are some measures by which more population can be proved as a boon for the economic development of the country:

5.2.1. Education

More population will only prove to be a boon when people are well educated. History is witness that the country whose citizens have been educated, the same country has developed in every aspect.

5.2.2. Health

Health includes both mental health and physical health. Although health is not directly involved in economic development, it directly empowers a person to perform work smoothly and efficiently.

5.2.3. Technology

It is said that more population works as a workforce. The workforce promotes labor work more. If technology is included in this workforce, the country will generate more revenue, which indicates economic development.

5.2.4. Curiosity

A curious person is always motivated to learn. The eagerness to acquire knowledge acts as a source of inspiration. We study deeply only when the mind is eager to know about it. It acts as an incentive that leads to in-depth study. We do fact-check more out of curiosity. Necessity gives rise to inventions, and curiosity leads to new discoveries. We eagerly try to find the answer to the questions of what it is. Therefore, curiosity should be maintained in the person. It is a psychological factor, though.

5.2.5. Awareness

Awareness to have about your rights and your duties. Awareness plays an essential role in making the person understand the rights and duties, knowing the policy and rules, and maintaining autonomy and accountability.

5.2.6. Purpose

Every work must have a purpose; only then that work becomes fruitful. One should know what the purpose of life is. All philosophy talks about individual purpose, karma purpose, and life purpose. If every person determines their objective for the nation's development and remains hardworking, then the nation will move towards prosperity.

5.2.7. Spirituality

The country's progress is somehow related to the human qualities of the individual. Spirituality is essential to move large populations in the right direction. Spirituality is often seen by linking it with religion, but spirituality is far above religion. Religion can be contained within spirituality. Spirituality shows us the path of duty in pacifying the mind. The development of human qualities is possible only through spirituality.

5.2.8. Dutiful

The duty of citizens is the first condition of development. We always talk about efficient and hard work employees. A nation cannot progress with the help of educated and aware citizens and technology unless the person is hardworking and not have industrious. Only a dutiful person can take the country to the highest peak.

5.2.9. Utilizing Resources

Every country has limited natural resources. Every country depends on each other for its natural resources and needs. By utilizing whatever resources we have, we can also avoid environmental crises and generate more revenue at less cost.

5.2.10. Equal Distribution of Income

The gap between rich and poor causes immense damage to the economic development of the country. Therefore, equal distribution of income is necessary for economic

progress. Such a policy should be made by the government so that there is not much gap between the people in the standard of living and the economic condition.

6. Conclusion

Whether the population is more or less, quality always matters for development. The quality and workforce together act as an asset for the country's economic progress. On this, Yanjiu said population is very closely linked to the economic development of a society. The quantity, quality, structure, distribution, and movement of a population can help or hinder the rate of economic development. A developed country with low population density and a low percentage of employable people needs an increase in population to keep up with economic development.

According to the world bank report, the living standard of people is increasing day by day. The average income per person is in growth. Life expectancy rises, and the poverty rate decreases. It is happening among overpopulated countries.

As mentioned in NCERT's book, "population need not be a burden for the economy. It can be turned into a productive asset by investing in human capital (for example, by spending resources on education and health for all, training industrial and agricultural workers in modern technology, useful scientific research and so on). The population is both a strength and a necessity for the country's economic progress. There are basically four elements needed for economic growth- human resources, natural resources, capital formation and technology. At the root of all elements are the people who convened it. Today if India is attracting all the countries for trade, it is its population. Undoubtedly, if the population is managed correctly, it will prove to be a boon for the country's economic progress.

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