

Lecture 20: Future Prospects

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PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN INDIA

According to NFHS 3 the following seven states have reached below replacement level fertility (TFR less than 2.1): Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Sikkim. Three other states that have replacement level fertility (TFR of 2.1). There is a need to examine in-depth what factors have led to below replacement level fertility in these diverse states and whether it is possible to design programmes for the high fertility states (such as Nagaland, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where TFR is 3.7 or above) based on lessons learnt from these states. Another issue is: whether in these states fertility will stabilize at the present low levels or it will continue to decline? Are they going to experience a third demographic transition and move towards fertility rising to replacement level?

In this context, the case of low fertility in Himachal Pradesh is particularly interesting. Himachal Pradesh has some unique characteristics:

1. Himachal Pradesh has the lowest incidence of spousal physical or sexual violence (6 percent).
2. It also has the highest contraceptive prevalence rate (73 percent). What has made all this possible in Himachal Pradesh? In Himachal Pradesh, knowledge and availability of family planning methods are universal and, therefore, the unmet needs are minimum (7.3 percent).
3. Ironically, Himachal Pradesh is not at the top in terms of improvement in infant and child mortality, antenatal care or institutional delivery.
4. It has the lowest level of urbanization.

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5. In the state only 45.3 percent deliveries are institutional and only half of the deliveries (50.2 percent) take place in presence of doctor/nurse/LHV/ANM/other health personnel (NFHS 3, 2009). Does the state have high rate of abortion? Collecting data on abortions is difficult. It is very personal, intimate and often a painful event.
6. There is a need to know: what is the level of spontaneous and induced abortion in Himachal Pradesh and what are the factors behind it.

There is vast literature of demographic transition. It is believed that in the West demographic transition occurred in two phases: first, in response to socio-economic development and modernization; and second time in response to developing separation between sex and reproduction due to development of contraception. The second transition has produced the below replacement fertility. In a recent article Chesnais (2000) identified the following factors behind demographic transition to below replacement level fertility: (1) social atomization and related feminism; (2) implementation of collectivized pension benefits; (3) globalized nomadism; (4) youth loss of majority; and (5) the “end of work” syndrome”. In simple terms it means that individualization, increasing freedom of women, pension benefits, migration and economic deprivation (because many youths are earning less than their parents and there is rise in unemployment) have changed the calculus of fertility in favor of low fertility.

Fertility levels are outcome of a number of factors:

- Age of marriage and length of reproductive period
- Sexuality within marriage
- Use of modern family planning methods – beginning of the use of spacing methods and the age of sterilization
- Abortion practices

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In literature, the above factors are divided into two categories: family planning; and beyond family planning factors. While family planning factors include knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of contraceptive methods –spacing and terminal – the beyond family planning factors include the whole matrix of socio-economic factors which impinge upon value of children, reproductive decision making, and motivation to limit family size.

India is making progress on all fronts: knowledge of family planning is almost universal, about 60 percent couples are using family planning methods, there is improvement in socio-economic condition and women are more empowered today. Due to Westernization, modernization and State efforts significant changes are taking place in age of marriage. Parents have started recognizing the importance of girls' education and empowerment of women has increased desire to provide as much education to girls as to boys. All this is going to help India in proceeding further on the path of demographic transition. Yet there are several impediments also. Traditionally, Indian society is patriarchal, and patrifocal. Marriage has been early and universal. In most parts of the country society and great value is placed on having a son. After marriage women join their husband's family and live almost permanently there or with husband if he is working elsewhere. They are subjected to physical, emotional and sexual violence. In certain parts of the country there is avoidance of girl child and illegally cases of female feticide are also taking place.

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PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE POPULATION

It is almost impossible to predict the future population with great accuracy. Population projections require an exact understanding of the present day processes and intelligent understanding of future possibilities (Box 6.2). United Nations estimates show that by the year 2050 India will be the most populous country of the world and its population will be larger than that of China (Box 6.3). This will affect international relations as well as India's place in globalization.

BOX 6.2: UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Many people who mark dire predictions about the ecological future do so out of genuine concern; others seem to be doing no more than cashing in on the public's seemingly inexhaustible appetite for nightmares. There are opposing 'no-problem' or 'the market will adjust' schools whose optimism cannot be shared either. It is more honest to admit that we do not know what the future holds; that it will be good or bad depending on some things that are within human control and others that are not. The business of the academic observer is to point to the areas where action is most needed and also – and this is one of our self-confessed aims – to create a climate of opinion for balanced judgement about future development.

From: Cassen (1978).

MIGRATION AS A BURNING ISSUE

Indian population has become mobile. As per the Registrar General India out of the 1.02 billion people in the country, 307 million (or 30%) were reported as migrants by place of birth data in 2001 census. This proportion in case of India (excluding J&K) is slightly more than what was reported in 1991 (27.4%). Thus there has been a steady increase in the number of migrants in the country. Whereas in 1961 there were about 144 million migrants by place of birth, in 2001 Census, it was 307 million. **With time migration is going to become a burning issue with ethnic conflicts between migrants and natives being reported from several parts of the country.**

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BOX 6.3: FUTURE POPULATION PROSPECTS

...it seems extremely unlikely that the country's population will not exceed 1.5 billion at some time in the coming decades. Indeed, a figure of about 1.6 billion seems fairly likely. And, while it is unlikely, even a figure approaching 1.7 billion cannot be ruled out. Personally I feel that a figure just short of 1.6 billion is most probable. And in this context it is worth noting that Natarajan and Jayachandran's projections (2001a, 2001b) - which also extend to the year 2051 - yield a figure of 1.646 billion. Moreover, the latest UN medium-variant (i.e. 'best-guess') projection puts the total population of India at 1.572 billion in 2050. The corresponding population figure for China then is only 1.462 billion (United Nations 2002).
Source: Dyson (2003)

Table 6.8 presents the data on migration based on place of birth data.

TABLE 6.8: IN-MIGRATION BY PLACE OF BIRTH AND SEX: 2001

Category	Persons	Males	Females
(a) Total Population	1,028,610,328	532,156,772	496,453,556
(b) Born in India	1,022,442,977	528,981,861	493,461,116
(c) Born in the place of enumeration	721,460,171	441,746,082	279,714,089
(d) Total migrants (a-c)	307,149,736	90,410,496	216,739,240
(e) Born within the state of enumeration	980,101,274	509,306,087	470,795,187
(i) Born elsewhere in the district of Enumeration	181,799,637	42,781,678	139,017,959
(ii) Born in other districts of the state	76,841,466	24,778,327	52,063,139
(f) Born in other States in India beyond The state of enumeration	42,341,703	19,675,774	22,665,929
(g) Born abroad	6,166,930	3,174,717	2,992,213
(h) Unclassified	421	194	227
<p>Note: India excludes 2001 Census data on population and other characteristics for Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur. Source: Table D1, Census of India 2001.</p>			

Slide 6**TABLE 6.8: IN-MIGRATION BY PLACE OF BIRTH AND SEX: 2001**

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State-wise details, showing 1991 population, number of net in-migrants, migration rate and a comparison with 1991-2001 growth in population, and contribution of migration in the growth of each state are given in Table 6.9. It clearly shows that Bihar and Manipur are two most outmigrating states while Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar, Daman and Diu, and Delhi are most immigrating Union Territories/States.

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TABLE 6.9: 1991 POPULATION, 2001 CENSUS DATA ON INTER-STATE MIGRATION BASED ON LAST RESIDENCE (0-9), MIGRATION RATE AND GROWTH RATE OF POPULATION- STATES/UTS

States/UTs	Population (1991)	In-migrants From other states(2001)	Out-migrants (2001)	From other countries (2001)	Net-in migrants (2001)	Migrati on Rate(per 100) 1991-2001	Growth Rate of Population (1991-2001)
India	846,387,888	16,826,879	16,826,879	740,867	740,867	0.09	21.54
1 A&N Islands	280,661	29,538	8,011	728	22,255	7.9	26.90
2 Andhra Pradesh	66,508,008	421,989	637,360	6,292	209,079	(0.3)	14.59
3 Arunachal Pradesh	864,558	71,789	12,507	2931	62213	7.2	27.00
4 Assam	22,414,322	121,803	281,510	5,053	154,654	(0.7)	18.92
5 Bihar	64,530,554	460,782	2,241,413	57,724	1,722,907	(2.7)	28.62
6 Chandigarh	642,015	239,263	106,734	5,108	137,637	21.4	40.28
7 Chhattisgarh@	17,614,928	338,793	444,679	2,615	103,271	(0.6)	18.27
8 Dadra & Nagar	138,477	47,649	3,440	964	45,173	32.6	59.22
9 Daman & Diu	101,586	48,362	5,401	1,835	4,796	44.1	55.73
10 Delhi	9,420,644	2,172,760	457,919	49,281	1,764,122	18.7	47.02
11 Goa	1,169,793	120,824	32,578	4,775	93,021	8.0	15.21
12 Gujrat	41,309,582	1,125,818	451,458	14,800	689,160	1.7	22.66
13 Haryana	16,463,648	1,231,480	588,001	26,639	670,118	4.1	28.43
14 Himachal Pradesh	5,170,877	188,223	165,776	28,276	50,723	1.0	17.54
15Jammu & Kashmir@	7,718,700	86,768	122,175	2,938	32,469	(0.4)	29.98
16 Jharkhand	21,843,911	502,764	616,160	2,309	111,087	(0.5)	23.36
17 Karnataka	44,977,201	879,106	769,111	20,533	130,528	0.3	17.51
18 Kerala	29,098,518	235,087	431,821	32,077	164,657	(0.6)	9.43
19 Lakshadweep	51,707	4,444	1,149	17	3,312	6.4	17.23
20 Madhya Pradesh	48,566,242	814,670	842,937	6,939	21,328	(0.0)	24.26
21 Maharashtra	78,937,187	3,231,612	896,988	48,394	2,383,018	3.0	22.73
22 Manipur	1,837,149	4,529	30,867	182	26,156	(1.4)	24.56
23 Meghalaya	1,774,778	33,710	20,434	1,154	14,430	0.8	30.65
24 Mizoram	689,756	22,599	31,739	8,436	704	(0.1)	28.82
25 Nagaland	1,209,546	33,594	51,857	1,752	16,511	(1.4)	64.53
26 Orissa	31,659,736	229,687	440,893	3,931	207,275	(0.7)	16.25
27 Pondicherry	807,785	105,208	35,755	1,426	70,879	8.8	20.62
28 Punjab	20,281,969	811,060	501,285	26,861	336,636	1.7	20.10
29 Rajasthan	44,005,990	723,639	997,196	11,873	261,684	(0.6)	28.41
30 Sikkim	406,457	22,519	6,238	7,655	23,936	5.9	33.06
31 Tamil Nadu	55,858,946	270,473	674,304	25,671	378,160	(0.7)	11.72
32 Tripura	2,757,205	40,262	23,538	11,246	27,970	1.0	16.03
33 Utter Pradesh	132,061,653	1,079,055	3,810,701	32,110	2,699,536	(2.0)	25.85
34 Uttaranchal@	7,050,634	352,496	354,718	29,138	26,916	0.4	20.41
35 West Bengal	68,077,965	724,524	730,226	259,204	253,502	0.4	17.77

Source: Table D2 , Census of India 2001

Note: @ Population of new states for 1991 Census is recast from the states from which they are formed. For Jammu & Kashmir estimated population is shown.

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Table 6.10 shows the reasons behind migration. The table shows that women are more mobile than men but the reason for that is essentially marriage migration among women. Among men work and employment is the major reason. 37.6 percent of them have migrated for work and employment. Interestingly, though only one-sixth of men, women too are migrating for work and employment.

TABLE 6.10: REASONS FOR MIGRATION OF MIGRANTS BY LAST RESIDENCE WITH DURATION (0-9 YEARS), INDIA, 2001

Reason for migration	Number of migrants			Percentage to total migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total migrants	98,301,342	32,896,986	65,404,356	100.0	100.0	100.0
Reason for Migration						
Work/Employment	14,446,224	12,373,333	2,072,891	14.7	37.6	3.2
Business	1,136,372	950,245	186,127	1.2	2.9	0.3
Education	2,915,189	2,038,675	876,514	3.0	6.2	1.3
Marriage	43,100,911	679,852	42,421,059	43.8	2.1	64.9
Moved after birth	6,577,380	3,428,673	3,148,707	6.7	10.4	4.8
Moved with Households	20,608,105	8,262,143	12,345,962	21.0	25.1	18.9
Other	9,517,161	5,164,065	4,353,096	9.7	15.7	6.7

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CONCLUSIONS

It appears that demographically, in the future India will experience hyperdifferentiation, a term used in postmodern literature for extreme differentiation leading to dedifferentiation or new forms of integration, uncertain and unpredictable at the moment. While some States will be moving towards lower death and birth rates as predicted by classical demographic transition theory, others will be experiencing a second demographic transition, and in some there will be a demand for the third transition leading to higher fertility levels. **There will be more of poor and rich divide.** Then within each state there will be high and low fertility districts, within each district high and low fertility blocks, and within blocks high and low fertility social classes. Within classes again there will be fragmentation due to Westernization, individualization and women's education. Urban and rural differences are likely to continue.

Migration will, however, become a more important issue than fertility and family planning. There are two types of migration: international and internal. In terms of statistics international migration will remain small as compared to population of India. But its impact on economy, culture and state policy may be quite substantial. Internal migration will increase further. There will be rapid migration from population surplus areas to resource surplus areas, often leading to violent conflicts at the place of destination. There will also be more migration caused by new development projects, climate change, environmental risks, political and ethnic reasons and new economic policies. There are forces of globalization and glocalization. All this would make the future more uncertain and less amenable to understanding in old sociological terms.

Questions and Exercises

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1. Discuss the 20th century population trends in India.
2. What is the difference between decadal growth rate and natural growth rate?
3. Which are the most outmigrating and immigrating States of India? What is the result of the rapid movement of people from one part of the country to another?
4. What is the possibility of third demographic transition in the country?
5. What are the future prospects of India's population?
6. Collect data on fertility, mortality, education and income for different states of India and explore if it is possible to classify the States of India in some way.
7. What is demographic momentum?
8. How is sex ratio of India changing? What does a low sex ratio in age group 0-6 imply?
9. Will a large population be a resource in India? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of large population in the globalized world.
10. Write a note on migration patterns in India.

References

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