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POPULATION GROWTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTER-RELATIONSHIP

- Taruna Arora, Research Scholar, CMJ, University, GS Road, Jorabat, Meghalaya
- Dr. Rajeev Jaiswal, Associate Prof., Department of Economics, CMJ, University, GS Road, Jorabat, Meghalaya

ABSTRACT
The connection between population growth and economic development has been a much debated topic ever since the world population passed the two billion mark. A vigorous debate on the relationship between those two factors has been going on in all countries, irrespective of whether they have less developed economies, developed economies or transition economies. Many theories abound, and the first theory states that population growth stimulates economic growth. The second theory views population growth as a phenomenon that adversely affects economic growth. That means the relationship between population growth and economic development can be measured by looking at the impact of population growth on economic development and vice-versa.. The study reveals that although a steadily growing population might seem to be an obstacle to a country's economic development, most of the countries have accepted the increase in population as a blessing.
Keywords: Economic Development, Population Growth

INTRODUCTION

There exists a close and reciprocal relationship between population growth and economic development in a country. The population in one way constitutes a source of labor that could be utilized to boost the country's production. On the other hand, it could also be seen as a consumer group that uses and exhausts a large quantity of the country's resources. However, certain economists from the earlier times have pointed out that the increase of population and the rapid growth of population in a country is tied to its economy. But the opinion of some other economists is that although the population can grow rapidly in a country, its natural and physical resources are limited, and as a consequence this situation could prove to be an obstacle to the economic development of the country. In the midst of these arguments the demographic transition theory attempts to clarify the relationship between population growth and economic development. It is clear that in the past economists and demographers considered the inter-relationship between population growth and economic development from both an optimistic perspective as well as from a pessimistic perspective. Those who viewed it optimistically adopted a benign attitude towards population increase; that is, they considered it is not necessary to control the population growth of a country. According to them the growth of population does not bring bad results. The pessimists look at it differently and assert that if a country is to attain a higher state of development, the rate of population growth should be reduced. That is, they claim that during the process of economic development population growth should be controlled. All pessimists are of the opinion that a higher fertility rate and the resulting rapid population growth act as a damper on economic development. The main objective of this paper is to examine the literature on the inter-relationship between population growth and economic development from both an optimistic angle as well as from a pessimistic angle.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

First, we will examine the effect of population growth on the economic development of a country. On the one hand, through rapid population growth, there will be some economic development. Further, the economy will also be controlled by a large population because a large market has to be supplied. This market will attract the future

industrialists who will utilize the most technologically advanced methods to obtain the maximum yield out of the available resources. In this manner the growing population will speed up the economic growth in a country. For example, Japan can be cited as a country with a high population but it managed to achieve a high living standard by developing the economy. But when we consider some countries like India, it is clear that the growing population is a big problem that affects the economic development of that country. In this case, the steadily growing population seems to be a hindrance to the country's economic development. We can also consider the effect of economic development on population growth. In a country that has not yet attained satisfactory economic development, the birth and death rates will be rather high. The birth rates will be steep due to a number of factors such as the early marriage of women, more home centered role with fewer working women due to social beliefs and customs, and the expectation that the children will generate an income for their families someday. At the same time the death rate will also be high due to the consumption of less nutritious food, poor sanitary conditions and nonavailability of advanced medical facilities. But when a country enters an era of sound economic development, more nutritious food will be consumed by the people and advanced medical care will also improve the life expectancy of the people. Due to the medical advances, ample supply of food items, and better sanitation brought forth by economic development there will be a sharp drop in the death rate. But as a result of all the comforts made accessible by the economy, the birth rate will continue to remain at a high level. The combined effect of all this will be that the growth of population will speed up and there will be a less manageable situation caused by the sharp rise in the number of people.

THE INFLUENCE OF POPULATION GROWTH ON SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The effects of population expansion have mostly focused on how they affect the rise of per capita or total income. Social indicators like the proportion of the population that receives enough food, learns to read and write, has an equal income distribution, and works in a productive capacity are used to quantify the impact of population expansion on the quality of development. These are a few more significant variables that must be taken into account when analysing how population increase affects economic development. Their implications on the rise in average income growth are just as significant, if not more so.

The ratio of the economically dependent population to the productive age population is known as the dependency ratio. This is defined arbitrarily as the ratio of the working-age population (those in the age bracket of 15 to 64) to the young (15 years of age plus the elderly (those 65 years of age and over).

Now let's look at how population increase and its age distribution impact a nation's national savings. A nation's savings are produced by its public sector, businesses, and industries. Rapid population increase and its high reliance burden would diminish household savings, which typically make up the majority of domestic savings.

More dependents increase spending at any given level of productivity per worker, which lowers savings. However, new empirical research does not entirely support these results. However, a variety of factors contribute to the weak correlation between the burden of dependency and monetized savings in developing nations. Relatively few wealthy families in developing nations generate the majority of the country's monetized household savings. Since they often have fewer children, the weight of their dependents usually has no effect on their savings. On the other hand, the majority of families in emerging nations live in poverty and make little savings. It is their only option to reduce their own consumption in order to pay for their children's consumption, and impoverished parents may not be able to save more money even if they have fewer children. Alternatively, they may just eat more themselves.

The fact that banking and credit systems are not well developed in developing nations is another factor contributing to the seeming weak correlation between saving and reliance burdens. Families with low incomes are unlikely to have savings that may be reported in national accounts. They are more prone to "save" money by acquiring jewellery, real estate, and other possessions.

Rapid population increase is obviously interpreted as a "saving constraint" on the development process, even though it does not appear to have an impact on monetized saving. A greater quantity of investible resources is not produced by faster population increase per se; rather, a higher rate of population expansion is correlated with

higher per capita output. This calls for increasing capital spending resources across an increasing number of individuals. However, a slower rate of population increase frees up investible resources for capital deepening, or raising the amount of capital per individual.

The population of school age in many emerging nations, where fertility rates are still high, is expected to double or triple in the near future. The capital stock must rise steadily in nations where the labour force is expanding in order to preserve the current level of productivity and capital per worker. If this doesn't happen, each worker's productivity will decrease due to the limited amount of land and capital available to them. Incomes will then either fall or remain stagnant as a result of productivity. As a result of wages declining in proportion to profits and rents, income inequality will rise.

It is common knowledge that the industrialization process in any economy is accompanied by a structural labour force shift. In order to absorb all of the additional work force in the non-agricultural sectors, the mix of employment is changing to one of growing diversities with continuously diminishing proportions in traditional vocations, particularly in agriculture. Therefore, it makes sense and is imperative that the majority of emerging nations make plans to employ people other than in agriculture to accommodate the growing work force. If fertility is decreased instead of permitted to stay at the current high levels, this duty is considerably lightened. Therefore, lowering fertility is very necessary to accomplish the two main objectives of economic growth, which are raising per capita income and giving the populace enough jobs.

Fast population growth also has a negative impact on the nation's environment because uneven farmland distribution can force more people into environmentally sensitive areas, causing erosion-prone hillsides, tropical forests, and other problems. This imbalance can also have long-term negative effects on the environment.

EFFECTS OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTON POPULATION GROWTH

Due to fluctuating fortunes, birth and death rates are high in developing, low-income, rural economies. While it's not a requirement today, significant economic advancements might be a sufficient prerequisite for a drop in mortality. Mortality rates can and do decline more quickly in the modern era than they did in industrialised nations. Several factors contribute to the high birth rate, including low literacy, inadequate social security in old age, ignorance of the benefits, methods, and drawbacks of family planning, inertia and apathy, resistance to change, lack of communication between husband and wife regarding issues pertaining to family size, intimacy and delicacy of the subject, desire for sons or children for the family, economic, religious, and other reasons, early marriage, and lack of options for women.

The economy transforms into a more specialised, market-dominated economy as it grows. Economic development raises the literacy rate, contributes to urbanisation, makes children less of an asset and more of a burden in cities, and weakens the hold that traditional ideas and rituals have over people. These circumstances ultimately lead to a decrease in the birth rate, and eventually, after some time, a new equilibrium at a low level is reached. Until a specific economic and social level is attained, improved economic and social circumstances are expected to have little to no influence on fertility in developing countries when fertility is initially high. However, after reaching that point, fertility is probably going to show a clear downward trend before stabilising at a considerably slower pace once more.

Therefore, countries' demographic conditions tend to alter as a result of economic progress, with mortality rates initially declining and then fertility rates declining.

The greatest obstacle the human race is currently facing is development. Even though the twentieth-century economic and technological revolutions brought about a wealth of opportunity, over a billion people still live on less than $1 per day, a level of living that was only reached by Western Europe and the United States two centuries ago. Even with notable advancements in economic growth, over one-third of the world's impoverished individuals reside in India.

Poverty is still a major issue in every emerging nation. Improving the quality of life—which includes higher incomes along with better education, better standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment,

better equality of opportunity, more individual freedom, and a richer cultural life—is the challenge of development in the broadest sense.

Therefore, development in its broadest definition is a process that raises people's material and spiritual standards of living. It denotes a growing realisation of one's own cultural ideals. The development model needs to satisfy the following requirements: increases in the economy, distributive justice, environmental quality, and the standard of living, particularly for the poor. It is now widely acknowledged that the wellbeing of the people must be the ultimate goal of all development initiatives, and economic progress is merely a means to that end.

Although it is important, earning a living is not the end of a person's existence. Public policy has a critical role in achieving rapid socioeconomic development.

PHASES OF POPULATION GROWTH IN INDIA

India had a population of 238.40 million in 1901 and 1027.02 million in 2001 (Table 1). Consequently, there were 788.62 million more people in the last century. India's population has increased consistently since 1901, with the exception of a minor drop from 1911 to 1911–21. Concurrently, until 1981, the population's decadal growth rate increased steadily. After then, it began to decline. Therefore, the demographic history of India can be split into the following four stages:

- Static growth rate period (before to 1921).
- A period of constant expansion (1921–1951).
- The 1951–1981 fast growth period.
- The period of slower growth (after 1981).

(1) The population was growing slowly, irregularly, and sporadically before to 1921. It has gradually expanded since 1921. Hence, in the population research of India, the year 1921 is referred to as the demographic division.

(2) Between 1921 and 1951, the population grew gradually as a result of the expansion of healthcare facilities, which decreased the number of people killed by diseases like the plague. Malaria and cholera Famine-related deaths decreased as medical facilities and sanitation improved. The demands of the food scarcity could be met by developed modes of transportation. The economy in agriculture significantly improved. As a result, the crude birth rate stayed high while the crude death rate decreased table It's referred to as mortality-induced growth in table-1.

(3) India's population almost quadrupled between 1951 and 1981. Over this time, there was an average annual growth rate of 2.2%. The acceleration of developmental efforts and the ongoing enhancement of health-related activities led to this extraordinary growth. The people's quality of life significantly improved. On the other hand, death rates decreased more quickly than birth rates. Fertility-induced growth was the reason why this circumstance led to such a greater growth rate.

(4) The population continued to rise at a high rate after 1981, albeit at a steadily slower pace. It marks the start of a new chapter in the demographic history of the nation.

The birth rate fell sharply over this time, from 34 per thousand in 1981 to 26 per thousand in 1999. The death rate continued to decline, but more slowly. The birth and death rate gaps shrunk to 17. This downward trend is a sign that government birth control programmes are working and that people are choosing to have fewer children.

TABLE-1.:INDIA : GROWTH OF POPULATION (1901-2001)

Census year	Population (in million)	Absolute change (in million)	Change (%)	Average annual growth (%)	Progressive growth over 1901 %)
1901	238.40	-	-	-	-
1911	252.09	13.70	5.75	0.56	5.75
1921	251.32	-0.77	-0.31	-0.03	5.42

1931	278.98	27.66	11.00	1.04	17.02
1941	318.66	39.68	14.22	1.33	33.67
1951	361.09	42.43	13.31	1.25	51.47
1961	439.23	78.15	21.64	1.96	84.25
1971	548.16	108.92	24.80	2.20	129.94
1981	683.33	135.17	24.66	2.22	186.64
1991	843.39	163.06	23.86	2.14	255.08
2001	1027.02	180.63	21.34	1.93	330.80

SPATIAL DIFFERENCES IN GROWTH RATE

Inter-state Differences

Between 1991 and 2001, the nation's population increased by an average of 21.34 percent. At the state level, growth rates range from 9.42% in Kerala to 64.41 % in Nagaland. The northern half of the nation is made up of states that are in a continuous strip and have rapid growth (more than 2.0 percent annually). High growth was also documented in the northeastern phases. In contrast, the country's growth rate was sluggish in all of the main southern states, averaging barely 0.90 percent annually. The population of the Southern States is more urbanised, has a higher percentage of literacy, and has a more developed economy overall. The Southern States have a somewhat lower birth rate.

Urban Rural Differences

In addition to births and deaths, migration is a major factor in population expansion. There is a significant migration of people from rural to urban areas. As a result, growth in rural as opposed to urban areas has always been slower. The 2001 census revealed significant geographical differences in the rates of rural population increase. The percentages are as follows: 1.5% in Delhi; 10.5% in Kerala; 63.37 in Nagaland; -2.16 in Goa; and -5.20 in Tamil Nadu. One possible explanation for this modest growth is out-migration from rural to urban areas and other states. The rate of urban population growth has continued to outpace that of rural population growth. The country's fastest-growing urban population (330.33 percent) is found in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Arunachal Pradesh (101.29 percent) had the fastest growth rate among the major states. On the other hand, the extension of urban limits, the acknowledgment of new towns, and the effect of immigrants, primarily from rural areas, created their imbalance in Andhra Pradesh (14.63 percent) and Kerala (7.64 percent).

For the most of the two million years that humans have existed, there have not been many people on the planet. By the time agriculture began around 10,000 BC, there were about 5 million people on the planet. This was mostly due to wars, famines, diseases, epidemics, and starvation; on average, the population grew by only 0.2% annually, or 20 million people. As a result, there were about 1 billion people on the planet by 1800 A.D. On the other hand, the population nearly tripled to 2.8 billion during the Industrial Revolution (1800–1955). The global population doubled once more between 1950 and 1990, reaching over 5.3 billion. Another 700 million people were added to the population in the ensuing 10 years.

The conventional mechanisms that restricted population growth in the 20th century have weakened, which is the main cause of the recent increase in population. For instance, the crude death rate is currently lower than it has ever been due to advancements in cleanliness, medicine, and living conditions. The population is growing at a rate never seen before as a result of this.

TABLE-2.ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED POPULATION OF THE WORLD

	Estimated Population		Population in 2050 (billion)		
	1950	**2000**	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
World	2519	6057	7866	9322	10934
More developed regions	814	1191	1075	1181	1309
Less developed regions	1706	4865	6791	8141	9625
Least developed regions	197	658	1545	1830	2130
Other less developed countries	1508	4207	5246	6312	7455

The graphic illustrates that since 1950, developing states have accounted for the majority of population growth, both in terms of actual numbers and growth percentage. The main cause of this is because death rates are essentially dropping sooner rather than later than crude birth rates. To give one example, throughout the last 30 years, the death rates in rich countries have decreased by as much as 50%. This has led to an increase of 2.4 billion people living in developing countries between 1950 and 1990.

Despite the fact that their average population growth rates have decreased from a 2.5 percent peak in 1970, a sizable youthful demographic pyramid generated the population momentum. Due to increased fertility, compared to 21 percent in industrialised countries, 35 percent of the population in developing countries is under the age of fifteen.

This is the outcome of the developing world's demographic transition, which, in contrast to earlier shifts in the wealthy world, significantly decreased infant mortality even as the fertility rate remained high.

Current Trends

After reaching 6 billion in 2000, the world's population is currently expanding at a pace of 1.2 percent, or 77 million people, annually. Half of this yearly growth is accounted for by six nations: Nigeria, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, India, and Indonesia.

According to U.N Estimates

The population of the less developed regions is expected to increase gradually from 4.9 billion in 2000 to 8.2 billion in 2050, according to estimates from the United Nations (medium variation). According to this projection, fertility will continue to drop. There will be stages of stagnant growth marked by high birth and death rates, rapid growth marked by high birth and low death rates, and stable low growth marked by low birth and death rates.

- Stage - I : High Stationary
- Stage - II : Expanding
- Stage - III : Low Stationary

Although there are many factors that influence how long each stage of the demographic transition lasts, it serves as a useful general model for explaining population growth. In the absence of such losses, the population of less developed regions would reach 11.9 billion people (high variant). It is anticipated that the 48 least developed nations would have very rapid growth. Between 2000 and 2050, their population is predicted to almost quadruple, from 658 million to 1.8 billion.

Because fertility rates are predicted to stay below replacement levels, it is anticipated that the 1.2 billion people living in more developed regions would not significantly alter over the next 50 years. 39 countries are expected to have a smaller population by the middle of the century than they do now.

Demographers are not surprised by these tendencies. They are included in the "Demographic Transition" analytical framework, which explains how population shifts occur over time.

The population of humans is estimated to be growing by 2% annually at this time. This rise is far faster than it has ever been in the planet's history. The population growth rates of China, India, and the elected African nations are particularly high. It is obvious that population growth must slow down at some point in the near future for a variety of reasons, including depletion of natural resources and food and water supplies, pollution, the extinction of animals and plants, and contamination and scarcity of numerous other essential materials.

The rates of births and deaths are the two factors that control population increase. The question then becomes whether declining birth rates or rising death rates will cause population growth to slow down. The population will eventually reach an unsustainable level, at which point nature will take over and the death rate will increase to address the issue. Regretfully, we don't think this is the best option. Rather, we would want to limit the number of births in order to combat the underlying cause of this global issue and prevent the planet from being overpopulated.

Cause of growth

Numerous causes contributed to the population growth in the early stages of the trend. The birth rate has significantly decreased since 1900, which is not the cause of the planet's population's explosive growth. The primary causes of this expansion are the significant declines in famine and sickness. People are living longer as a result. Population increase is influenced by tradition, values, attitude, and socioeconomic standing.

This expansion is mostly concentrated in the developing globe. For many families to survive, size is essential. It isn't that the impoverished become impoverished because they bear children—poverty begets children. Kids contribute to the family income rather than depleting it. They are able to work from an early age, helping to provide for the family and taking care of the young and the elderly.

Richeness correlates to low birth rates in the same way that poverty does to high birth rates. Children are not expected to die young in industrialised nations, nor are they required to contribute to the family income. Economic prosperity and medical advancements must coexist if birth rates are to drop in emerging nations.

A high birth rate is the most visible factor contributing to population expansion.

Numerous factors contribute to this:

- Security: Many nations do not provide social security or pensions for their senior citizens. People in these nations have to rely on their offspring to provide for them in old age. To be sure that some will live and sustain them, they need to have a large number of children.
- Want additional assistance in agriculture because the majority of farms are not mechanised and require more workers.
- Additional family members can work and contribute to the family's increased level of life.
- 4.Families are compelled to have numerous children in some regions of the world due to social and religious pressure.
- A greater number of kids grow up to become adults and start their own families. Improved health, cleanliness, and well-being all contributed to a higher number of young individuals reaching childbearing age.

Despite making up only 2.3% of the world's landmass, India will have 16.6% of the world's population within the next 25 years. The overpopulation of India is demonstrated by these two sentences. The United Nations has issued a warning that food and water shortages are likely to occur in the near future if India's population growth does not slow down. It's already happening in India. India's population growth is impeding any progress the country makes. The rapid population growth in India is now a global issue.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF WOMEN

The guy is seen as the leader of the family in a great number of societies worldwide. He is still the ultimate decision-maker in the home. Often, women who no longer feel compelled by social or economic norms to have more children are unable to make that decision for themselves. The greatest significant influence on fertility rates is thought to come from the status of women in society.

Experts believe that women's educational attainment is a contributing factor to the high birth rates in less developed nations. Almost all agricultural work, watering, meal preparation, firewood gathering, and childrearing are done by women. They become the chattels of their spouses after getting married young and no longer belong to their dads. Their only source of reputation, given their low rank, comes from having offspring, particularly males. The biggest influence on fertility rates is found in women's status. In nations currently experiencing significant population increase, equitable access to education and guaranteeing women's fundamental right to self-determination are essential considerations.

- In terms of India's overall population, Muslims make up a rapidly growing portion of it since they can individually hold 4, 5, or 6 viewpoints, which allows them to have an equal number of children year.
- Bigamy laws are exclusive to Hindus. The administration is in favour of restrictions since all political parties want to profit from this voter bank for Muslims.
- People were not aware of birth control methods and there was no appropriate sex education in those earlier, say thirty years ago.Unlike now, the cost of living was low back then, and raising a family was not a struggle for them.
- Family structure: In urban India, the typical age of marriage is in the early to mid-20s, in contrast to rural India, where adolescent marriages are widespread. India also boasts one of the lowest divorce rates worldwide. There is a greater emphasis on joint families, with up to four generations frequently residing in one home. It is customary to continue the family tradition by having two or three children. Having a larger family guarantees that parents will not experience as much stress.

In India, traditionally, Muslims from lower income groups have made up the majority of the skilled, uneducated labour force. The majority of artisans, tailors, sculptors, and barbers in India, both urban and rural, are Muslims. They think that having more kids will increase the family's income because most of them start learning the family craft before they are even teens. Second, they are more influenced by the local religious leaders who forbid the use of birth control, claiming that children are Allah's gift. Finally, they have always felt uneasy living in a nation dominated by Hindus. They think that in numbers, they are safer. These households typically have five to 10 children.

In India, there is virtually little financial outlay associated with child planning, childbirth, and upbringing. I'm not suggesting people intentionally have more children because it's not too expensive; rather, they would have been reluctant had it been more expensive. Everything from medical expenses to clothing and everything else is significantly cheaper here. India was the first country to implement effective birth control procedures in the 1980s, but they haven't become extremely popular. Even now, the impact measures are not successful in reaching a greater portion of the populace in the nation.

Longer life expectancy: There are now better, more reasonably priced medical facilities available all around the nation. The percentage of persons living to be sixty or seventy has been steadily rising, indicating a decline in the death rate.

Because there were less medical facilities outside of large cities thirty years ago, there was a greater rate of child death. There was also a lack of awareness and knowledge. Parents decided to have more children as a response of the increased child death rate. The mortality rate has significantly decreased, but the mentality has not altered at the same rate. The number of persons who do not have a male child is consistently quite low, despite the great demand for male children.

The majority of rural India is still undereducated today. Here's where things go terribly wrong. Unfortunately, this group of people also makes up the majority of the "Country's Population," so nearly everything on the above list has the worst effects on them.

If population growth continues at its current rate, the nation will be destroyed. This damaging issue is the result of India's socially conscious populace combined with the government's lack of action. The issue is not being recognised by people. India will be the country that creates the most slums; there will be riots and fighting over food and water in the very near future. Every city will resemble a fish market, with people wherever you look. There will be very little traffic. Everyone will yell and cry out, but no one will pay attention. Everything will be in disarray.

In my opinion, India won't be a desirable location to live in 20 years. I fervently ask God to preserve our nation. India's populace will merely exist as ghosts of their catastrophic destiny. They complain about rising commodity prices, changes in government regulations, and other issues, but they ignore the main issue that is the source of all of these problems and will eventually destroy them.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that in the past, economists and demographers considered the inter-relationship between population growth and economic development in an optimistic manner as well as in a pessimistic way. When considering those with an optimistic outlook, they adopted a welcome attitude towards population increase –that is, they considered it was not necessary to limit the population of a country. But the pessimists express the view that if a country is to reach a proper state of development, the speed of population growth should be reduced. According to the foregoing discussion, it is clear that although a steadily growing population might appear to be a hindrance to a country's economic development, most of the countries have in practice accepted their population as a blessing.

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