



Introduction

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Chapter 2 The Demographic Structure

Chapter 2 The Demographic Structure

Chapter at Glance

Demography is the systematic study of population has Greek origin and composed of the two words, demos (people) and graphein (describe) which implies the description of people.

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Chapter at Glance

Demography studies the trends and processes associated with population including

- changes in population size;**
- patterns of births, deaths, and migration;**
- the structure and composition of the population, such as the relative proportions of women, men and different age groups.**

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Different varieties of demography -

- formal demography which is a largely quantitative field.
- social demography focuses on the social, economic or political aspects of populations.

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Different varieties of demography -

All demographic studies are based on processes of counting or enumeration census or survey which involves systemic collection of data on the people residing within a specified territory.

Social statistics-quantitative data on various aspects of the population and economy.

The American census of 1790 was probably the first modern census, and the practice was soon taken up in Europe as well in the early 1800s.

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Different varieties of demography -

In India, censuses began to be conducted by the British Indian government between 1867-72, and regular ten yearly (or decennial) censuses have been conducted since 1881.

Independent India continued the practice, started in 1951, the most recent being in 2011. The Indian census is the largest such exercise in the world (since China, which has a slightly larger population, does not conduct regular censuses).

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Importance of Demographic Data

Demographic data are important for the planning and implementation of state policies, specially for economic development and general public welfare. Aggregate statistics or the numerical characteristics that refer to a large collectivity consisting of millions of people which offer a concrete and strong argument for the existence of social phenomena.

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Importance of Demographic Data

Formal demography is primarily concerned with the measurement and analysis of the components of population change.

Its focus is on quantitative analysis for which it has a highly developed mathematical methodology suitable for forecasting population growth and changes in the composition of population.

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Theories and Concepts in Demography- Malthusian Theory

English political economist Thomas Robert Malthus theory of population growth that outlined in his *Essay on Population* (1798), was a rather pessimistic one. He argued that human populations tend to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which the means of human subsistence (specially food, but also clothing and other agriculture-based products) can grow.

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Theories and Concepts in Demography- Malthusian Theory

Humanity is condemned to live in poverty forever because the growth of agricultural production will always be overtaken by population growth.

While population rises in geometric progression (i.e., like 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 etc.), agricultural production can only grow in arithmetic progression (i.e., like 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 etc.).

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Theories and Concepts in Demography- Malthusian Theory

'Preventive checks' is a way to control population through postponing marriage or practicing sexual abstinence or celibacy.

Malthus believed therefore that 'positive checks' to population growth in the form of famines and diseases were inevitable as they were nature's way of dealing with the imbalance between food supply and increasing population.

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Theory of Disapproved by Other Theories

The pattern of population growth began to change in the latter half of nineteenth century, and by the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century these changes were quite dramatic.

Birth rates had declined, and outbreaks of epidemic diseases were being controlled.

Malthus's predictions were proved false because both food production and standards of living continued to rise despite the rapid growth of population.

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Theory of Disapproved by Other Theories

Malthus was also criticised by liberal and Marxist scholars for asserting that poverty was caused by population growth.

The critics argued that problems like poverty and starvation were caused by the unequal distribution of economic resources rather than by population growth.

An unjust social system allowed a wealthy and privileged minority to live in luxury while the vast majority of the people were forced to live in poverty.

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Theory of Demographic Transition

It suggested that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development related population growth.

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Three basic stages of population growth

The first stage is that of low population growth in a society that is underdeveloped and technologically backward.

Second stage - Growth rates are low because both the death rate and the birth rate are very high, so that the difference between the two (or the net growth rate) is low.

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Three basic stages of population growth

The third (and last) stage is also one of low growth in a developed society where both death rate and birth rate have been reduced considerably and the difference between them is again small. Between these two stages is a transitional stage of movement from a backward to an advanced stage, and this stage is characterised by very high rates of growth of population.

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Theory of Demographic Transition

'Population explosion' happens because death rates are brought down relatively quickly through advanced methods of disease control, public health, and better nutrition.

It takes longer for society to adjust to change and alter its reproductive behaviour (which was evolved during the period of poverty and high death rates) to suit the new situation of relative prosperity and longer life spans.

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Theory of Demographic Transition

In India too, the demographic transition is not yet complete as the mortality rate has been reduced but the birth rate has not been brought down to the same extent.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

Birth rate is the total number of live births in a particular area (an entire country, a state, a district or other territorial unit) during a specified period (usually a year) divided by the total population of that area in thousands. In other words, the birth rate is the number of live births per 1000 population.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

The death rate is a similar statistic, expressed as the number of deaths in a given area during a given time per 1000 population. These statistics depend on the reporting of births and deaths by the families in which they occur.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

The rate of natural increase or the growth rate of population refers to the difference between the birth rate and the death rate.

When difference is 'zero' or less, population is 'stabilized' or has reached the 'replacement level' that is the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

Negative growth rate means fertility levels are below the replacement level. Japan, Russia, Italy and Eastern Europe are some examples of it.

The fertility rate refers to the number of live births per 1000 women in the child-bearing age group, usually taken to be 15 to 49 years. This is a 'crude' rate which is a rough average for an entire population and does not take into account the differences across age-groups.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

Total fertility rate refers to the total number of live births that a hypothetical woman would have if she lived through the reproductive age group and had the average number of babies in each segment of this age group as determined by the age-specific fertility rates for that area.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of babies before the age of one year per 1000 live births.

The maternal mortality rate is the number of women who die in childbirth per 1,00,000 live births, High rate of infant and maternal mortality rates indicates backwardness and poverty. Improvement in these rates indicates improved medical facilities, level of education, awareness and prosperity.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

The sex ratio refers to the number of females per 1000 males in a given area at a specified time period.

Naturally, 943 to 952 female babies for every 1000 males are considered as sext ratio is in favor of females.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

The reasons are

- i. Girl babies appear to have an advantage over boy babies in terms of resistance to disease in infancy.
- ii. At the other end of the life cycle, women have tended to outlive men in most societies, so that there are more older women than men.

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Some Indicators of Population Growth

Countries like China, South Korea and India, sex ratio is declining due to 'son preference' and negligence to girl child.

The age structure of the population refers to the proportion of persons in different age groups relative to the total population. Factors - poor medical facilities, prevalence of disease other factors like quality of live, development, etc.

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Dependency ratio

The dependency ratio is a measure comparing the portion of a population which is composed of dependents (i.e., elderly people who are too old to work, and children who are too young to work) with the portion that is in the working age group, generally defined as 15 to 64 years.

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Dependency ratio

Dependency ratio (%) = $\frac{\text{population below 15 or above 64}}{\text{population in the 15-64 age group}}$

- rising dependency ratio leads to ageing population i.e, cause for worry.
- falling dependency ratio | source of economic growth and prosperity.

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Dependency ratio

- demographic dividend - less ageing population and high working population benefits country which flow from the changing age structure. This benefit is temporary because the larger pool of working age people will eventually turn into non- working old people.

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Size and Growth of India's Population

India is the second most populous country in the world after China.

Before 1931, both death rates and birth rates were high, whereas, after this transitional moment the death rates fell sharply but the birth rate only fell slightly.

The principal reasons for the decline in the death rate after 1921 were increased levels of control over famines and epidemic diseases.

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Size and Growth of India's Population

The major epidemic diseases in the past were fevers of various sorts, plague, smallpox and cholera.

Epidemic was controlled by-improvements in medical cures for these diseases, programmes for mass vaccination, and efforts to improve sanitation.

Famines were also a major and recurring source of increased mortality. Famines were caused by high levels of continuing poverty and malnutrition in an agro- climatic environment that was very vulnerable to variations in rainfall.

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Factors

Lack of adequate means of transportation and communication.

Inadequate efforts of states to control the situation The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the latest state initiative to tackle the problem of hunger and starvation in rural areas, Variation in Fertility Rates in India.

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Factors

Unlike the death rate, the birth rate has not registered a sharp fall as birth rate is a sociocultural phenomenon that is relatively slow to change.

Increased levels of prosperity exert a strong downward pull on the birth rate.

Once infant mortality rates decline, and there is an overall increase in the levels of education and awareness, family size begins to fall.

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Factors

Some states, like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have managed to bring down their total fertility rates (TFR) to 1.7 each (2016).

This means that the average woman in these states produces only 1.7 children, which is below the 'replacement level' and Kerala's TFR is also below the replacement level, which means that the population is going to decline in future.

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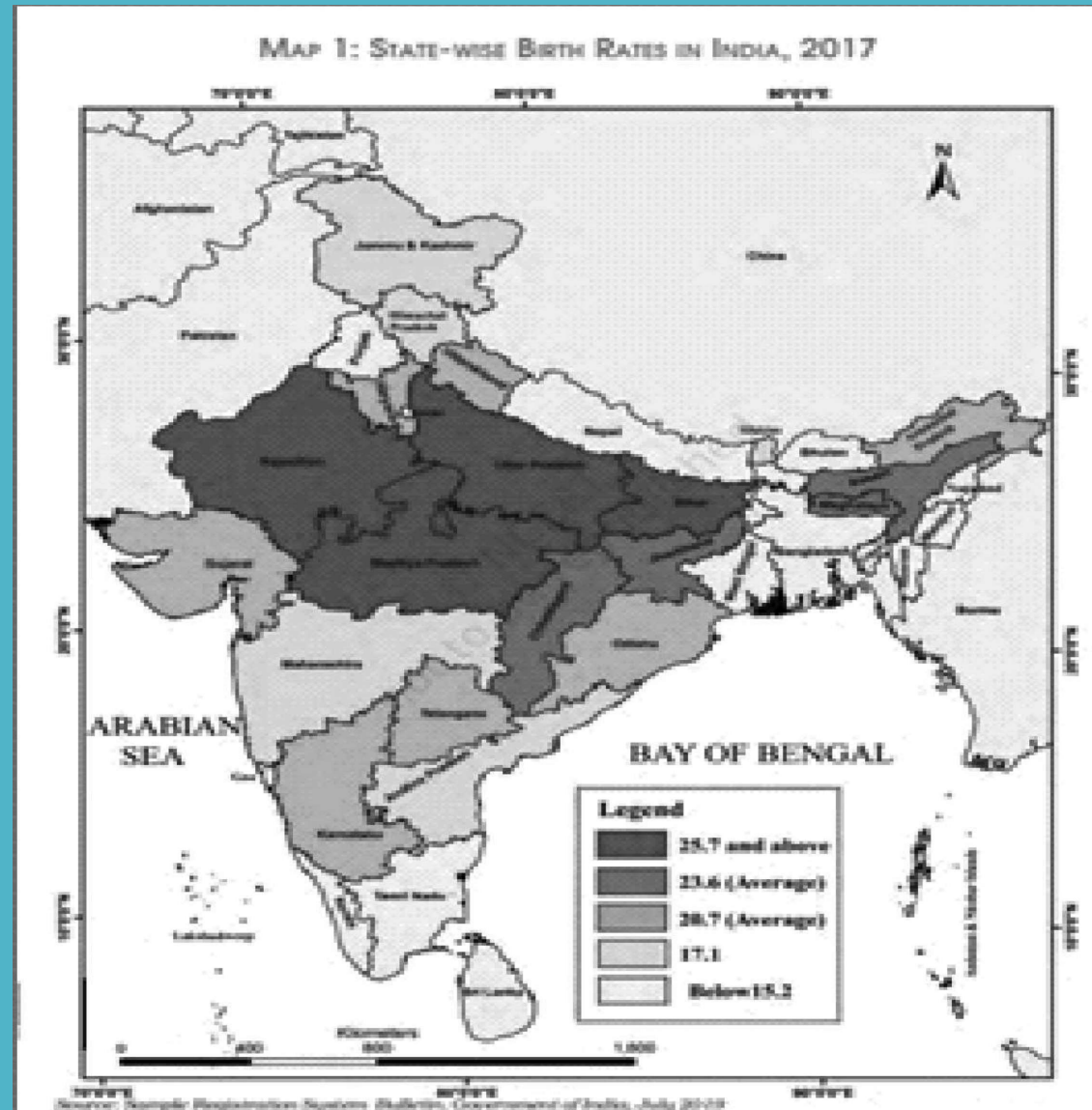
Factors

Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, which still have very high TFRs. In 2016, the TFRs of these states were 3,3,2,8, 2,7 and 3,1, respectively.

According to the Economic Survey 2018-19, India's total birth rate was 22.4, among them rural birth rate was 22.4 and urban birth rate was 17.3.

The highest birth rate in India is of Uttar Pradesh (25,9) and Bihar (26,4), and they will also account for about half (50%) of the additions to the Indian population upto the year 2041.

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Chapter 2 The Demographic Structure

Age Structure of Indian Population:

India has a very young population- that is, the majority of Indians tend to be young, and the average age is also less than that for most other countries.

The bias towards younger age groups in the age structure is believed to be an advantage for India. Like the East Asian economies in the past decade and like Ireland today, India is supposed to be benefitting from a 'demographic dividend'.

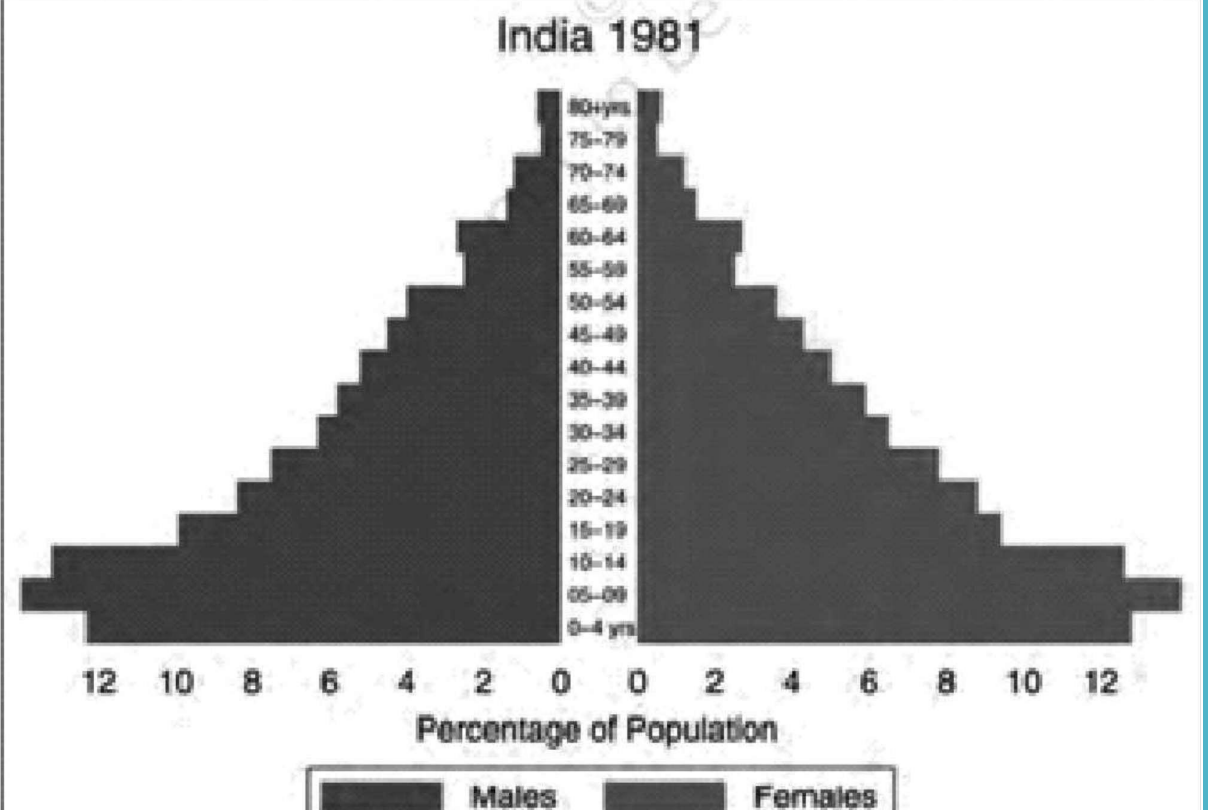
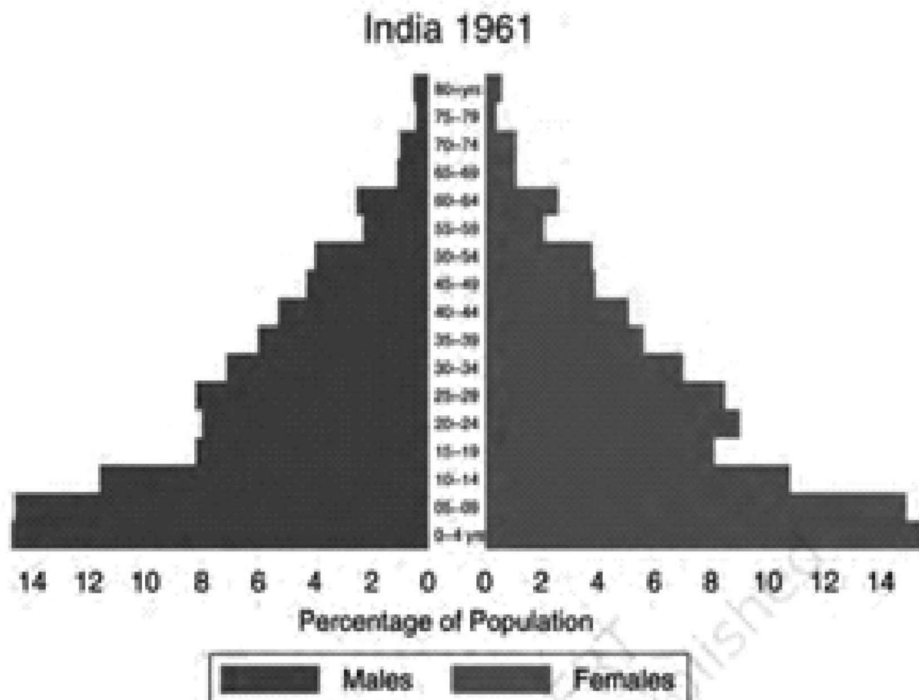
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Age Structure of Indian Population:

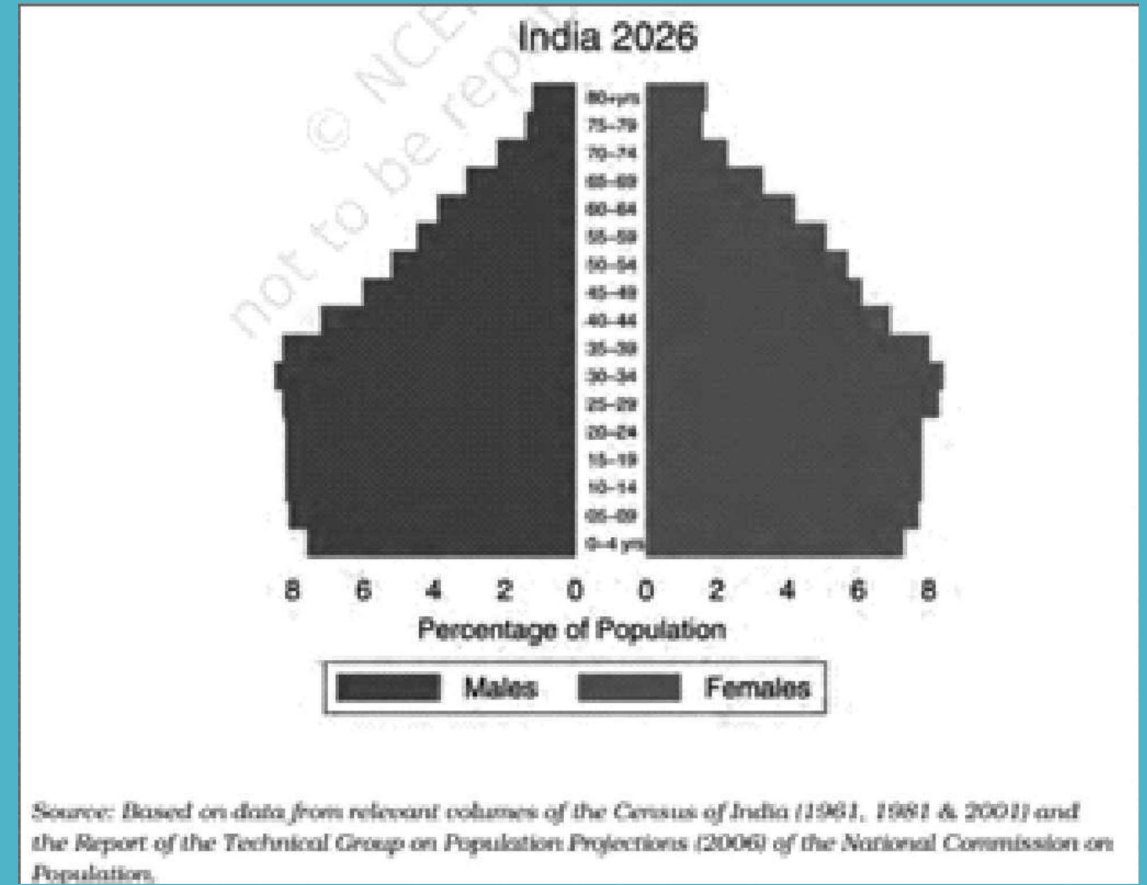
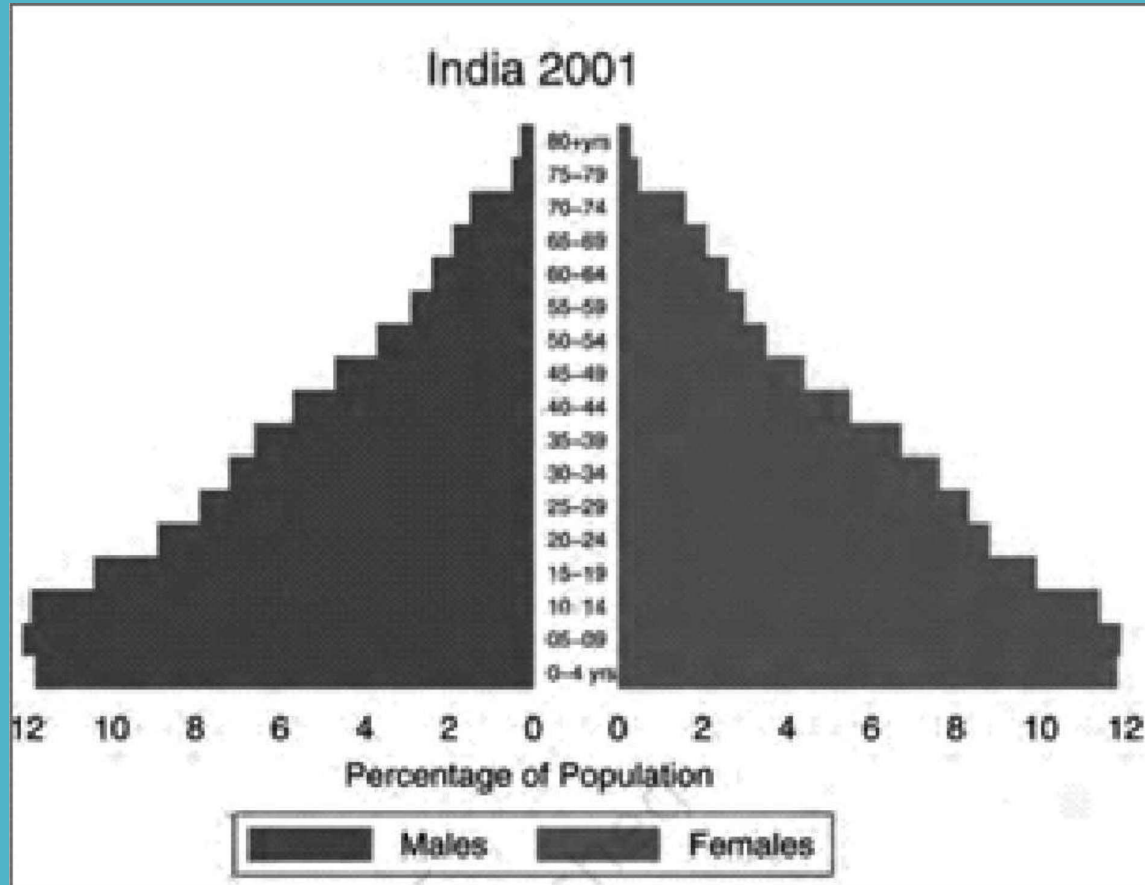
This dividend arises from the fact that the current generation of working-age people is a relatively large one, and it has only a relatively small preceding generation of old people to support.

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CHART 3: AGE GROUP PYRAMIDS, 1961, 1981, 2001 AND 2026



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Source: Based on data from relevant volumes of the Census of India (1961, 1981 & 2001) and the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (2006) of the National Commission on Population.

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Age Structure of Indian Population:

As with fertility rates, there are wide regional variations in the age structure as well. While a state like Kerala is beginning to acquire an age structure like that of the developed countries.

Uttar Pradesh presents a very different picture with high proportions in the younger age groups and relatively low proportions among the aged.

India as a whole is somewhere in the middle, because it includes states like Uttar Pradesh as well as states that are more like Kerala.

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

Historically, the sex ratio has been slightly in favour of females, that is, the number of females per 1000 males has generally been somewhat higher than 1000, However, India has had a declining sex-ratio for more than a century.

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

From 972 females per 1000 males at the turn of the twentieth century, the sex ratio has declined to 933 at the turn of the twenty-first century.

According to Census of India 2011 sex ratio has increased and now it is 943 females per 1000 males. . Age specific sex ratios began to be computed in 1961.

As many as nine States and Union Territories have a child sex ratio of under 900 females per 1000 males.

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

Haryana is the worst state with an incredibly low child sex ratio of 793 (the only state below 800), followed by Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Madhya Pradesh are all under 925, while large states such as West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka are above the national average of 919 but below the 970-mark.

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

Even Kerala, the state with the better overall sex ratio does not do too well at 964, while the highest child sex ratio of 972 is found in Arunachal Pradesh.

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Reasons of Decline:

- The health factor that affects women differently from men is childbearing.
- Improvement in maternal mortality rate
- Improved level of nutrition
- General education and awareness
- Improvement in available medical and communication facilities

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Factors Leading to Decline:

- Severe neglect of girl babies in infancy leads higher death rates
- sex-specific abortions that prevent girl babies from being born
- female infanticide (or the killing of girl babies due to religious or cultural beliefs)

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

According to the Economic Survey for a recent year, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi are having high per capita income and the child sex ratio of these states is still low. So the problem of selective abortions is not due to poverty or ignorance or lack of resources.

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Declining Sex Ratio in India:

It is also possible (though this issue is still being researched) that as economically prosperous families decide to have fewer children- often only one or two now- they may also wish to choose the sex of their child.

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Policies to Improve Sex Ratio:

Laws banning practice of sex determination and imposing heavy fines and imprisonment as punishment. Known as the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act has been in force since 1996, and has been further strengthened in 2003.

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Policies to Improve Sex Ratio:

Recently, the Government of India has introduced the programme, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. It can prove to be an important policy to increase the child sex ratio in the country.

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Literacy:

Literacy as a prerequisite to education is an instrument of empowerment

Literacy levels have improved considerably after independence, and almost two-thirds of our population is now literate.

But improvements in the literacy rate have to struggle to keep up with the rate of growth of the Indian population, which is still quite high.

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Literacy:

Literacy rates also vary by social group-historically disadvantaged communities like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have lower rates of literacy, and rates of female literacy within these groups are even lower.

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Literacy:

Regional variations are still very wide, with states like Kerala approaching universal literacy, while states like Bihar are lagging far behind.

The inequalities in the literacy rate are specially important because they tend to reproduce inequality across generations.

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Rural-Urban Differences:

According to Census of India 2011 still more people are living in rural areas but the population of urban areas has increased.

Now 68.8% population lives in rural areas while 31.2% people live in urban areas.

Agriculture used to be by far the largest contributor to the country, but today it only contributes about one-sixth of the gross domestic product.

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Rural-Urban Differences:

Mass media and communication channels are now bringing images of urban life styles and patterns of consumption into the rural areas.

Consequently, urban norms and standards are becoming well known even in the remote villages, creating new desires and aspirations for consumption.

Mass transit and mass communication are bridging the gap between the rural and urban areas.

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Rural-Urban Differences:

The rapid growth in urbanisation shows that the town or city has been acting as a magnet for the rural population.

Those who cannot find work (or sufficient work) in the rural areas go to the city in search of work. This flow of rural-to-urban migration has also been accelerated by the continuous decline of common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands.

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Rural-Urban Differences:

These common resources enabled poor people to survive in the villages although they owned little or no land.

For the socially oppressed groups like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this may offer some partial protection from the daily humiliation they may suffer in the village where everyone knows their caste identity.

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Rural-Urban Differences:

The anonymity of the city also allows the poorer sections of the socially dominant rural groups to engage in low status work that they would not be able to do in the village,

There are now 5,161 towns and cities in India, where 286 million people live. However, is that more than two-thirds of the urban population lives in 27 big cities with million-plus populations.

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Population Policy in India:

India was the first country to explicitly announce a population policy in 1952.

The population policy took the concrete form of the National Family Planning Programme.

The broad objectives of this programme have remained the same - to try to influence the rate and pattern of population growth in socially desirable directions.

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Population Policy in India:

The most important objective was to slow down the rate of population growth through the promotion of various birth control methods, improve public health standards, and increase public awareness about population and health issues.

In 2017, Government of India came out with National Health Policy 2017 in which most of the socio- demographic goals were incorporated with new targets.

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