

# TRENDS IN POPULATION GROWTH AND NATIONAL INCOME IN COLONIAL INDIA

Nurjahan Begam

**Abstract :** In the colonial India to explain the misery of the common people's poverty and expected life of the common man, population structure etc to be used as an indicator by Nationalist Economists. Depending on the level of dependency, how many people depend on every 100 people who are able to work. That is the percentage of dependencies is expressed as a index  $\frac{\text{Children+Elder}}{\text{Operational young man}} 100$ . The important index of economic growth of any country is per capita income. If we want to know per capita income as well as information about population, we need reliable information about National income. But before the 20<sup>th</sup> century the population information was found, there was a lack of reliable information on National Income. Various tables have been shown in the undivided population of India and the percentage of population growth in different regions as a percentage of its growth, male and female ratio in different regions of India, distribution of labor force in different departments, National income of colonial India, contribution of various departments as a percentage of national income etc.

**Key Words :** Explanation of the population growth trend is the average life of ordinary people population structure, per capita income is used as an indicator.

**Objective :** The objective of this topic is to give a correct idea about population growth and population structure in colonial India and presenting an accurate information about trends and patterns of national income growth in colonial India.

**Instruction :** In the colonial India to explain the misery of the common peoples poverty and the economy, population growth trend, the average expected life of the common man, the population structure etc. to be used as an indicator, by nationalist Economists. These aspects of population are highlighted as the indicators of economic development still now. One idea was that the population growth of the country was indicative of the growth the economy. If population increases and increases the expected average life expectancy of common people, the ratio of female and males in society is biased towards women and according to the age structure the ratio of middle aged working people is higher when understood that the country's development process is going on.

**Population growth patterns :** Statistics in the colonial India could not be found in the general population statistics and details of its expenditure. So, there was a population and its structure in various aspects as the sign of development of getting much more detail than other backward countries. No matter how much English British people say about British rule in India, no matter how paint the amazing pictures of industrialization, due to the financial crisis of the country, flood, drought famine and epidemics continued. Child mortality was very high, the expected age was between 23 to 25 years, the ratio of women is lower than men, the dependency index was around 80%. The table below shows the increase in population growth from 1867 to 1941.

## Population in India and its growth in undivided India

Time duration	Growth rate as a government (Annual)	Average annual rate (million)	Davis growth rate (annual)	Revised average (annual)
1167 – 1872	20.34	--	25.52	--
1881	25.02	2.07	25.74	0.09
1891	27.96	1.11	28.21	0.92
1901	28.39	0.15	28.53	0.11
1911	30.03	0.65	30.30	0.60
1921	30.57	0.09	30.57	0.09
1931	33.82	1.01	33.82	1.01
1941	38.90	1.40	38.90	1.40

**Source :** Kingsley Davis ' Population of India and Pakistan' (1951)

The table shows that the population growth rate is very low till 1921. Annual average growth rate is below 1. As a government the annual growth rate from 1881 to 1891 was more than one, although kingsley Davis it's a lot more than below One . Between 1921 to 1941 , the population growth rate is more than one per annum. The accounts of the expected life expectancy of the public are available . Between 1871 to 1881 the average life expectancy of Humans was 24.6 years. After the counting of people it is reduced to 23.8 years. According to privet accounting expected life expectancy is much lower .

The following tables show annual growth rate of population in the different regions.

**Annual rate of population growth rate in different regions per annum :**

Time duration	East	West	Central	North	South	All India
1867/82-1921	0.52	0.14	0.47	0.19	0.47	0.37
1921 – 1941	1.37	1.30	1.29	1.25	0.92	1.22

Source : Lila Bisaria and prabin Bisaria, Cambridge Economic History of India, 1983.

During the two periods 1871 to 1941, the population growth rate is the lowest in the west. In 1870 to 1890, there was a famine in this region and death rates rise. As a result the population growth rate is lower. But during this period in the eastern region population growth rate is higher than the other areas due to which there is no major famine epidemic. It is noteworthy that the population growth rate increased from 1921 to 1941 in all regions. During this time due to the decrease in death rates because improvements in communication and vaccin system etc. Moreover there was no major famine and epidemic in India between 1908 to 1943. After 1921 the government policy of healthcare helped with this.

The table below is found by examining the population structure as a percentage of the children and the working age and the elderly at different times. Children and the elderly dependent on the working people. So depending on the level of dependency, how any people depend on every 100 people who are able to works. That is the percentage of dependencies is expressed as a index ( $\frac{\text{Children} + \text{Elder}}{\text{Operational young man}} \times 100$ ). The table above shows that from 3 to 14 years of age between 1881 to 1941, an average of 38.5 percent. The number of people older than 60 years is about 5.5 percent. The number of working people aged 15 to 19 years is approximately 56 percent of the total population. Children and adolescents are more likely to have higher rates of child mortality. It appears in the table. The number of first 14 years groups is 38.5 percent and its 45 year old population is 56 percent means the number of children and adolescents up to 14 years is higher than those of working youth and the average life expectancy is very low due to the percentage of older people. It is easily captured from the dependency index. The dependency index 75 to 80 means too much. Contrast image is seen in the developed country. The human life expectancy is high and people are more. The dependency index is low. The high indicators of dependency are the signs of the colonial countries misery.

In the table below in the colonial India attempts to explain the state o the economy of the country according to the ratio of men – women were tried.

**The ratio of Male – Female**

(The number of Males per thousand female)

Region	1881	1901	1921	1941
East	995	1005	1031	1080
West	1067	1058	1086	1098
Central	1040	1019	1029	1032
North	115	1102	1135	1125
South	998	982	985	998

Source : Lila Biswas and D. Kumar Cambridge Economic History. Voll-II

According to table, we can say that except for 1881 in South India and in Eastern India, every 1000 women would have seen more than one thousand men in colonial India. Moreover, there is a trend to increase the proportion of this ratio. It is noteworthy that due to biological reasons, male birth rate is higher than female birth. In the socio-economic condition Embryon killing, Misceluaneeacs death rate is higher in backward countries. So it is said that due to biological reason this ratio should be less than one in the case of Socio-economic reasons, the rate of death of women is very high this ratio is more than one in most cases of India. That is the number of males in India per thousand more than women. Many argue that the number of women in census is not properly captured. All women are not counted because, they are serenaded. It can be said that in the twentieth century when the number of woman in the curtain decreased, the number should have deceased inequality. But statistics show that this discrimination has increased. So this criticism is not appropriate. The table shows that in south India male and female ratio is less than 1. It is possible that in south India more women's rights and social status are high. The killing of daughter in North India was the most common. There are fewer women in the male sex ratio for socio-economic structure. How the power was divided in the primary division and secondary division and services department in colonial India was caught in the following table.

**Distribution of labor force in different department**

	1881	1911	1951
Primary	72.4	73.8	73.2
Secondary	11.2	10.6	10.9
Service	16.4	15.5	15.8

Source : J.Krishnamurti, Cembridge Economic History, Vol – II

The above distribution of labor power is seen in the backward country. This is called the nature of the infusion. That is the underdeveloped country is the agricultural head where the largest part of the population is agricultural. As the country progresses the percentage of labor force has increased in the industries and services sectors. This is our true experience.

**National Income change Trends :**

The important index of economic growth of any country is per capital income. It we want to know per capita income as well as information about population, we need reliable information about national income. But even before the twentieth century the population information was found, there was a lack of reliable information on national income. English thinkers tried to highlight the English rule of the department of India's

economy as positive side. Similarly, nationalist economists like Dadabhai Naoroji to show the country and the situation of the country during the English period based on the scattered data, calculate the per capita income and per capita expenditure. In 1881 Lord Cramer made a public account, it was said that then India's per capita income was twenty seven rupees. As per numerical atcisshon, the per capita income was 39.5 rupees. Dadabhai Naoroji showed that from 1867 to 1868, India's national income was 340 crores and the per capita income was twenty. However many people feel that the above information is not acceptable, because of the difficulties in collecting data or the lack of real data collection. According to Dadabhai Naoroji National Income does not just focus on per capita income. He also emphasized the nutrition of the common man in his explanation. Current development and poverty estimation and nutrition information are considered important. Significantly, the Dadabhai used to interpret his interpretation as a real source of income. The business, transport, administration did not include it. Based on the average income of every five years it is available in the table below which we can show our observations about national income.

#### National income of colonial India (1900 – 47)

Time duration	Average annual income (Million rupees)	The average of 5 years of National Income per head (Rupees)
1900/01 – 1904/05	1502	52.2
1904/06 – 1909/10	1575	53.0
1910/11 – 1914/15	1730	56.5
1915/16 – 1919/20	1760	57.3
1920/21 – 1924/25	1844	59.1
1925/26 – 1929/30	2044	62.7
1930/31 – 1934/35	2131	61.6
1935/36 – 1939/40	2250	60.6
1940/41 – 1944/45	2441	56.6
1942/43 – 1946/47	2524	62.3

Source : S. Shibusubramniyan – National income of India, 1900—01 to 1947

Nirmal Kumar Chandra – Long term stagnation in the Indian Economy 1900 – 75, Economic and political, weekly, Vol – 22 Annual number 1982.

Following the table above it is said that with the increase of national income from 1900 – 21, the per capita income, is increasing at a lower rate. In 1920 to 1921 per capita income has increased at a very low rate and sometimes decreased. That is the development rate for the overall period is very slow. It did not increase as it was born from 1900 to 1921. It has been reflected in the increase in per capita income population growth has increased since 1921. That is reflected at a very slow pace sometimes and sometimes at a lower rate. In the face of population growth long term per capita income of 20 – 22 years remained fixed at around 62 rupees. That is the economy has stagnated. The above figure is measured in order to make the year's income comparable as 1938 – 1939 years of foundation year.

In 1948 is an important aspect of national income analysis, explaining national contributions to different departments. Sharing the economy mainly in the agricultural industries and services, the growth of the industry and the services sector increases, but the contribution of agriculture is reduced. Which of the above three divisions is known as the framework of the economy. As the contribution of industry and services increases, there is a structural change in the economy. Under an advanced state, an agricultural economy is seen to be transformed into an industrial economy. Along with this, with the technological advancement in agriculture, agriculture becomes a knowledge based product. That is the agricultural itself is transformed into art.

From the figures available it can be said that between 1900 to 1940, India's agricultural contribution did not increase. In the national income of the first decade of the twentieth century, agricultures contribution to the national income was roughly below 1000 crore rupees. In the next 25 years there has increase more than on billion crore rupees and sometimes decreased. Depending on the nature of crop, the contribution of agricultural contributions to short-term can be seen. But the sings of a stagnation for long periods can be seen that after 1935, agricultural contributions was 100 billion rupees. Although the contribution of the industry to the national income is very low, there is an increase in interest. Prior to world war- I, the contribution of the industrial division was 200 crore rupees. After the twentieth century it grew to 300 million rupees. In the 40<sup>th</sup> century, the contribution of the industry to the national income was more than 400 crore rupees.

Between 1900 to 1946 the percentage of agricultural growth in the national income was 0.42 percent, rate of 1.82 percent of the growth in industria sector, in the third case, the growth role was 2.22 percent.

The table below shows the contribution of different departments from 1900 to 1945.

#### Contribution of different sections of national income (as a percentage)

Time duration	Primary Section	Secondary Section	Service Section
1900/01 – 1904/05	63.6	12.7	23.7
1905/06 – 1909/10	61.7	13.5	24.8
1910/11 – 1914/15	60.1	13.9	26.0
1915/16 – 1919/20	59.6	13.7	26.7
1920/21 – 1924/25	57.4	13.4	29.2
1925/26 – 1929/30	52.1	14.9	33.0
1930/31 – 1934/35	51.4	15.8	32.8
1935/36 – 1939/40	49.4	16.4	33.7
1940/41 – 1944/45	47.6	16.7	35.7

The top table shows that the contribution of agriculture to the national income has decreased very little. Industry contribution and very little increase. Comparatively contribution of third division or service department leads to higher rates.

Conclusion : Many like Dadabhai Naoroji believe that the physical or the product is not produced in the third or services department rather the transfer earns in this case. So it can not be condered a national income. As the business grew the transaction increased in this division. This is the divisional income. In the above discussion, we discussed the growth of colonial India's national income and its contribution to different departments. As average calculation of per capita income. This average calculation ignores the national income distribution. Depending on the distribution of financial status of the common people which need to know about.

**Reference :**

1. Amit Bhaduri : A study in Agriculture at backwardness under semi feaudalism, Economic journal, Vol – 83, 1973.
2. Bipan Chandra : Essays on Colonialism, New Delhi 1999.
3. Cambridge Economic History, Vol – II.
4. Dadabhai Naoroji : Poverty and Un-British rule in India.
5. George Blyn : Agricultural Trend in India 1891 – 1996.
6. K.N. Raj (Ed) : Essays on Commercialization of Indian Agriculture.
7. Oxford University press : The English Utilitarians and India, Eric Stokes.
8. R.C. Datta : Economic History of India.
9. S. Ghosh : The Indian Bourgeoisie.
10. Sunanda Sen : Colonies and the Empire, Orient Longman.
11. V.I. Lenin : Imperialism the highest stage of capitalism.

