

# Population Explosion in India: Threats to Sustainable Development

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**ABSTRACT:** India is second populated country in all over the world (after China). In 2017 our population was 133.92 crores (Sources: World Bank, United states census Bureau). Our population increasing rapidly day by day. But the problem is our resources are limited. So population explosion is main threats to sustainable development. If we will not take necessary step immediately against population explosion then our country (future generation) are in big danger. It is our responsibility to give a healthy and peaceful life to our future generation (main aim of sustainable development). This paper tries to discuss why population explosion occurs in India; its effects on environment, how we overcome from this problem, and how it is becomes main threat to sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Population Explosion, Sustainable Development.

**INTRODUCTION:** Population explosion refers to the rapid and dramatic rise in world population that has occurred over the last few hundred years. Between 1959 and 2000, the world's population increased from 2.5 billion to 6.1 billion people. According to United Nations projections, the world population will be between 7.9 billion and 10.9 billion by 2050. Most of the growth is currently taking place in the developing world, where rates of natural increase are much higher than in industrialized countries. Concern that this might lead to over population has led some countries to adopt population control policies.

**Population Explosion = Birth rate + Emigration >>> Death rate + Migration**

Now we have to know about sustainable development,

**"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."**

So it means we use our environment for our necessary needs and also see that our future generation get maximum to meet their own needs.

## CURRENT POPULATION IN INDIA:

India Population clock (live)

13-02-2019 19:12:03

1,372,118,412	Current population
708,460,963	Current male population (51.6%)
663,657,449	Current female population (48.4%)
3,355,525	Births this year
61,290	Births today
1,218,248	Deaths this year
22,252	Deaths today

<b>-67,406</b>	Net migration this year
<b>-1,231</b>	Net migration today
<b>2,069,871</b>	Population growth this year
<b>37,807</b>	Population growth today

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Population Division.

<b>Current population (as of Wednesday, February 13 2019)</b>
1,372,080,605
<b>Total area</b>
3,287,260 km <sup>2</sup> (1,269,218 mi <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Population density</b>
417.4 per km <sup>2</sup> (1,081.0 people/mi <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Sex ratio</b>
1.07 (708,459,417 men to 663,656,001 women)
<b>Median age</b>
26.7 years
<b>Life expectancy</b>
66.8 years (65.8 - men, 68.0 - women)
<b>Literacy</b>
72.1 %

Source: Population figures are estimates by Countrymeters ([countrymeters.info](http://countrymeters.info)) based on the latest United Nations data

### Population change rates in 2019

According to our estimations, daily change rates of India population in 2019 will be the following:

- 76,610 live births average per day (3,192.09 in an hour)
- 27,814 deaths average per day (1,158.91 in an hour)
- -1,539 emigrants average per day (-64.12 in an hour)

The population of India will be increased by 47,257 persons daily in 2019.

**Population of India (2019 and historical)**

Year	Population	Yearly % Change	Yearly Change	Migrants (net)	Median Age	Fertility Rate	Density (P/Km <sup>2</sup> )
2019	<b>1,368,737,513</b>	1.08 %	14,685,659	-490,000	27.0	2.41	460
2018	<b>1,354,051,854</b>	1.11 %	14,871,727	-490,000	27.0	2.41	455
2017	<b>1,339,180,127</b>	1.13 %	15,008,773	-490,000	27.0	2.41	450
2016	<b>1,324,171,354</b>	1.15 %	15,117,374	-490,000	27.0	2.41	445
2015	<b>1,309,053,980</b>	1.24 %	15,614,658	-515,643	26.7	2.44	440
2010	<b>1,230,980,691</b>	1.47 %	17,372,403	-582,766	25.1	2.80	414
2005	<b>1,144,118,674</b>	1.67 %	18,213,552	-390,182	23.8	3.14	385
2000	<b>1,053,050,912</b>	1.86 %	18,513,623	-143,380	22.7	3.48	354
1995	<b>960,482,795</b>	2.00 %	18,069,863	-110,587	21.8	3.83	323
1990	<b>870,133,480</b>	2.17 %	17,693,362	9,029	21.1	4.27	293
1985	<b>781,666,671</b>	2.33 %	16,976,631	116,619	20.6	4.68	263
1980	<b>696,783,517</b>	2.32 %	15,096,359	231,436	20.2	4.97	234
1975	<b>621,301,720</b>	2.34 %	13,544,641	428,664	19.8	5.41	209
1970	<b>553,578,513</b>	2.15 %	11,175,230	-69,036	19.4	5.72	186
1965	<b>497,702,365</b>	2.06 %	9,644,351	-21,142	20.8	5.90	167
1960	<b>449,480,608</b>	1.89 %	8,042,311	-30,805	20.3	5.90	151
1955	<b>409,269,055</b>	1.69 %	6,588,771	-21,142	20.8	5.90	138

Source: **Worldometers** ([www.worldometers.info/](http://www.worldometers.info/))

, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision. (Medium-fertility variant).

**CAUSES OF POPULATION EXPLOSION IN INDIA :****1. Hot Climate:**

One of the reasons of fast rising population in India is its hot climate. Due to hot climate, maturity comes at early age in boys and girls, due to which they give birth to their children at their early age. This is one of the main reasons for population explosion.

**2. Child Marriage and Multi Marriage System:**

In India the tradition of child marriage and multi-marriage system is prevalent. Marriage of around 80% girls of the country is took place at their young age of between 15 to 20 years. Thus, the result of long married life comes in the form of excessive childbirth. Tradition of multi-marriage system increases the rotation of childbirth. Apart from it, the increasing tendency of widow marriage, due to the social reforms is also increasing childbirth up to some extent.

**3. Religious Superstitions:**

Our religious Gurus say that if a Hindu person does not has son, then who will perform the religious ritual in its absence. Due to this, person remains engage in the continuous process of giving birth, one by one, in search of male baby. In the same manner, in Muslims both male and female child is a boon (gift) sent by Allah, prevention of their birth by using any means of family planning is a sin. Due to these reasons, population is continuously increasing.

**4. Illiteracy and Unawareness:**

In India around 36% males and 61% females are illiterate. Neither they have full knowledge of family planning nor do they know about the consequences of excessive childbirth. This is one of the reasons of rising population and the situation of Population Explosion' is emerged.

**5. Poverty:**

Due to poverty, population is increased of the poor families of our country. People lives in slum, uses their children as a tool, to earn money, hence they always try to increase the number of children in their families.

**6. Birth Rate:**

In India the average age for marriage is very low, comparatively other nations of the world. This is also a reason for population explosion.

**7. Death Rate:**

In India the death rate from the year 1900 to 1910 was around 35 to 50 persons per thousand, which is now reduced to only 7 to 8 persons per thousand. This become 'possible in the country by good and hygienic food, pure drinking water, facilities of hospitals, good cleanness, medical facilities at affordable rates and control over Malnutrition, Pneumonia, Cholera, Epidemic etc. Along with, child death rate has reduced to 69 per thousand, comparatively around 218 per thousand in between the years 1916 to 1920. Due to this also, the position of Population Explosion occurred.

**8. Indifferent towards Family Planning:**

Illiterate persons and people living in rural areas are indifferent towards family planning. They feel fear even by the name of 'Operation'. They are not interested even in the use of simplest and cheapest means of family planning.

**9. Lack of Social Security:**

Due to lack of social security system in India, every parent seeks. shelter at the time of crises and for their old age, in childbirth. Whether this would be son or daughter. In the fear of death of their child at childhood, they give birth too many children, so that any of them would be support of their old age.

**10. Arrival of Refugees:**

Population is very much increased due to continuous arrivals of refugees in India. At the time of division of India and Pakistan in 1947, more than 1 crore refugees came to India. In 1962 at the time of attack of China, a huge number of Tibetan refugees came to India. Similarly, in 1971, more than 1 crore Bangladeshi refugees came to India and even today

this problem is still continued. Apart from this, continuous arrival of Nepalis, is also still continued. More than 5 lakhs Tamil refugees had come to India due to Sri Lankan Tamil problem. All these are responsible for population explosion.

### 11. Other Causes:

Betterment in economic condition and joint family system also causes of population explosion.

## EFFECTS OF POPULATION EXPLOSION:

### 1. Population reduces the Rate of Capital Formation:

In underdeveloped countries, the composition of population is determined to increase capital formation. Due to higher birth rate and low expectation of life in these countries, the percentage of dependents is very high. Nearly 40 to 50 per cent of the population is in the non-productive age group which simply consumes and does not produce anything.

In under developed countries, rapid growth of population diminishes the availability of capital per head which reduces the productivity of its labour force. Their income, as a consequence, is reduced and their capacity to save is diminished which, in turn, adversely affects capital formation.

### 2. Higher Rate of Population requires more Investment:

In economically backward countries, investment requirements are beyond its investing capacity. A rapidly growing population increases the requirements of demographic investment which at the same time reduces the capacity of the people to save.

This creates a serious imbalance between investment requirements and the availability of investible funds. Therefore, the volume of such investment is determined by the rate of population growth in an economy. Some economists have estimated that for maintaining the present level of per capita income, 2 per cent to 5 per cent of national income must be invested if population grows at 1 per cent per annum.

In these countries, population is increasing at the rate of about 2.5 per cent per annum and 5 per cent to 12.5 per cent of their national income and hence the entire investment is absorbed by demographic investment and nothing is left for economic development. These factors are mainly responsible for stagnation in such economies.

### 3. It reduces per Capita Availability of Capital:

The large size of population also reduces per capita availability of capital in less developed countries. This is true in respect of underdeveloped countries where capital is scarce and its supply is inelastic. A rapidly growing population leads to a progressive decline in the availability of capital per worker. This further leads to lower productivity and diminishing returns.

### 4. Adverse Effect on per Capital Income:

Rapid growth of population directly effects per capita income in an economy. Up to 'income optimizing level', the growth of population increases per capita income but beyond that it necessarily lowers the same. In a sense, so long as the rate of population growth is lower than the per capita income, rate of economic growth will rise but if population growth exceeds the rate of economic growth, usually found in the case of less developed countries, per capita income must fall.

### 5. Large Population creates the Problem of Unemployment:

A fast growth in population means a large number of persons coming to the labour market for which it may not be possible to provide employment. In fact, in underdeveloped countries, the number of job seekers is expanding so fast that despite all efforts towards planned development, it has not been possible to provide employment to all. Unemployment, underemployment and disguised employment are common features in these countries. The rapidly rising population makes it almost impossible for economically backward countries to solve their problem of unemployment.

### 6. Rapid Population Growth creates Food Problem:

Increased population means more mouths to feed which, in turn, creates pressure upon available stock of food. This is the reason, the under-developed countries with rapid growing population are generally faced with a problem of food shortage. Despite all their efforts for raising agricultural production, they are not able to feed their growing population.

Food scarcity effects economic development in two respects. Firstly, inadequate supply of food leads to undernourishment of the people which lowers their productivity. It further reduces the production capacity of the workers, Secondly, the deficiency of food compels to import food grains which places as unnecessarily strain on their foreign exchange resources.

### **7. Population and Farming:**

In less developed countries the majority of population lives in, where agriculture is their mainstay. The growth of population is relatively very high in rural areas and it has disturbed the land man ratio. Further it has increased the problem of disguised unemployment and reduced per capita farm product in such economies, as the number of landless workers has largely increased followed by low rate of their wages.

The low farm productivity has reduced the propensity to save and invest. As a result these economies suffer largely for want of improved farm techniques and ultimately become the victim of the vicious circle of poverty. Thus retarded farming and the process of overall development.

### **8. Population and Vicious Circle in Poverty:**

Rapid growth of population is largely responsible for the perpetuation of vicious circle of poverty in underdeveloped countries. On account of rapid growth of population people are required to spend a major part of their income on bringing up their children.

Thus savings and rate of capital formation remain low, reduction in per capita income, rise in general price level leading to sharp rise in cost of living. No improvement in agricultural and industrial technology, shortage of essential commodities, low standard of living, mass unemployment etc. As a result the entire economy of an underdeveloped country is surrounded by the vicious circle of poverty.

### **9. Reduction in Efficiency of Labour Force:**

The labour force in an economy is the ratio of working population to total population. If we assume 50 years as the average life expectancy in an underdeveloped country, the labour force is in effect the number of people in the age group of 15-50 years. During the demographic transitional phase, the birth rate is high and the death rate has declined and due to which the larger percentage of total population is in lower age group of 1-15 years, which is small labour force implies that comparatively there are few persons to participate in productive employment.

To overcome the demographic transition stage, it is essential for less developed countries to bring down their fertility rate. Thus, we can conclude that labour force increases with the increase in population.

### **10. Rapid Population declines Social Infrastructure:**

A welfare state line India is pledged to meet social needs of the people adequately and for this, the government has to spend a lot on providing basic facilities like education, housing and medical aid. But rapid increase in population make burden all the more heavy.

### **11. Adverse Effect on Environment:**

Rapid population growth leads to the environmental change. Rapid population growth has swelled the ranks of unemployed men and women at an alarming rate. Due to this, a large number of people are being pushed in ecologically sensitive areas such as hill sides and tropical forests. It leads to the cutting of forests for cultivation leading to several environmental change. Besides all this, the increasing population growth leads to the migration of large number to urban areas with industrialization. This results in polluted air, water, noise and population in big cities and towns.

### **12. Obstacle to Self Reliance:**

The excessive population growth is an obstacle in the way of attaining self or reliance because it obliges us to importance and more food articles in order to meet the needs of increasing millions and on the other hand, it cuts down export surplus heavily. Reduction in exports makes us unable to pay for imports and we have to depend on foreign aid. Thus, the aim of self reliance cannot be achieved without controlling the population.

### **13. Declining trend of Agricultural Development:**

In less developed countries, mostly people live in rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture and if the population increases the land-man ratio disturbed. Per capita availability of land for cultivation declined from 1.1 acre in 1911 to 0.6 acre in 1971 in our country which makes the size of holdings very small. The small size of holdings makes adoption of modern technology means of irrigation and mechanization impossible.

This also leads to the occurrence of disguised unemployment and underemployment in the agricultural sector. It leads to congestion and moreover to reduction in land available for farming as well as for building houses, factories, hospitals, shopping centres, educational institutions, roads and railway tracks etc. Thus, the growth of population retards agricultural development and creates many other problems.

#### 14. Growing Population lowers Standard of Living:

The standard of living is determined by their per capita income. The factors affecting per capita income in relation to population growth equally apply to the standard of living. The increase in population leads to an increased demand for food products, clothes, houses etc., but their supply cannot be increased due to the lack of cooperate factors like raw materials, skilled labour and capital etc.

The cost and prices rise which raise the cost of living of the masses. This brings the standard of living low. Poverty breeds large number of children which increases poverty further and vicious circle of poverty. Thus, the consequence of population growth is to lower the standard of living.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."**

**Sustainable development** is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resource use continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be classified as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.



**HOW POPULATION EXPLOSION BECOMES THREATS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** In our country population explosion occurs rapidly day to day, we are the second populated country of the world (after China). But the problem is our resources are not increases in the rate of population. So if population explosion occurs rapidly in India then one day our resource became not sufficient for all the population. If there are not sufficient resources for me, then how we left resources for our future generations? Ultimately our sustainable development hampered.

**HOW WE OVERCOME FROM THIS THREAT:** For every problem there is a solution also. The solutions are given below.

1. Increases our literacy rate.
2. Stops child marriage system.
3. Increases awareness on affects of population explosion.
4. Control birth rate.
5. Awareness on importance of family planning.
6. Govt. Should control it by law that every parent they have maximum two children, if more than that then third child does not getting any govt. facilities.

**CONCLUSION:** We see that current population in India is increasing rapidly at every second. There are several causes of population explosion in India and also there are several affects of population explosion in India. We also see how population explosion becomes negative effects on sustainable development. We all know that our future are depends on our present. So we have to do something from now. There are several suggestion for controlling population explosion in India and help to sustainable development like- increases our literacy rate, stops child marriage, increases awareness on it, control birth rate, helps in family planning, and lastly and most importantly by the law of two children planning.

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