

Problems in Population Management

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Abstract : Tries to explain why the population has shot up from 1971 and two-thirds of the growth in India has taken place since then. Uses tables to aid in explanation of birth rates, literacy and literacy among females particularly. Concludes that the economic development and urbanization is to be commended but not the only key factor regarding fertility rates of single states.

IndexTerms - **Population, Management, Relationship.**

Introduction

The study of the problems in population management is vital from the point of view of economic and social welfare. It is particularly important because human beings are not only instruments of production but also ends in themselves. It is also important to peruse the various facets of population because of the fact that man, by his culture and knowledge, lives largely outside the domain and laws of animal ecology, although it would always be possible to discover some casual relationship between the physical environment and human distribution. Undoubtedly, the physical determinants affects the number, distribution, habits, dimension of growth and limitation of growth both directly and indirectly, but at the same time it is modified by the numbers and kinds of people. Hence, the real problem is to determine how and to what extent this is so. It is, therefore an imperative to pin point the problems which have been hindering the process of population management in Bihar.

Factors causing problems in population management

It is well known fact that population is the keel of all sorts of growth, progress and development. This is by virtue of the fact the process of socio-economic development involves the utilization of physical resources of a state or nation by the labour force of a country so that the productive potential in a region is realized. In this endeavour of development there is no doubt that the labour force of the country makes positive contribution, but it is equally true that rapidly growing population with respect to the present state of economy of the state acts as retarding factor in the process of all round socio-economic development of the state. It would be of interest to examine the problem in this setting.

Problems arising out of ever zooming population

Population is a dynamic factor which goes on increasing either rapidly or slowly or negatively with respects to environmental conditions. Hence population management varies from region to region. A level, at which there is equilibrium between the availability of resource and the existing population, is supposed to be the level of optimum population and the concept of optimum population is itself a dynamic concept. Various efforts have been made to define the relationship between population and resource, amongst which Edward

Ackerman's is still the best. According to him population management with reference to resource may be based on the following types : -

- The U.S. type with high technology- a model of abundant resources but with low population;
- The West European type with high technology and large resources but with high population;
- The Brazil type of low technology, low population but with abundant resources;
- The Egyptian type of low technology, high population and not too large resources; and
- The Arctic type of low technology, low population and low resources.

In the first two cases, where technology is highly developed and technicians are numerous, with abundant or large resources as in U.S. or Western European Countries, there is prosperity though perhaps not always optimal. The third type exemplified by Brazil has every prospect of improving its lot with the advanced application of technology. The fifth type is so small that it does not demand very serious attention. It is really the fourth type, the so-called Egyptian or Indian type that attracts the most serious attention. Bihar is a fit case to study the relationship between population growth, resource availability and population management. From preceding discussion it is clear that Bihar is a fit example of over-population with respect to its resources. It is most discouraging because of its terrible imbalance between the excessive numbers of consumers and shortages of resources, both physical and cultural. The state is very heavily populated by whatever yard stick the measurement is made, either by actual numbers or by density based on resources. There is an excessive pressure of people on both physical and cultural resources, which are already almost at breaking point and there is little hope for any qualitative improvement in welfare of the people unless there are some revolutionary discoveries like oil or the use and application of solar energy, abundant water and most effective method of cultivation. Unfortunately, for the state of Bihar, this problem of rapid growth is almost at a phenomenally fast rate.

The ever increasing rate of growth of population poses several problems to be tackled. One very interesting thing which has cropped up in the way of managing population with respect to resource availability is aspirations among people to higher level of living. In recent decades, this has become a pathological phenomenon, when technically ignorant peoples, desire a quick satisfaction of their material wants and needs. Unfortunately, the path to progress is neither rosy nor easy. The excessive numbers confront not only deficient material but also lack of technical know-how and the required social capital. In the world there are rare instances, when countries like Puer to Pico, Japan and Taiwan have been able to scale the ladder of development. Though problem of over-population with respect to resource is in existence in the state but by making valiant efforts the problem may be sorted out.

Population control can also be used to target migrants and minorities. In India, Hindu nationalists frequently raise the bogeyman of a "Muslim population bomb." Earlier this year, one Indian minister Giriraj Singh, who has previously criticized Muslim population growth, supported calls for a punitive two-child norm.

Societies generally experience falling fertility rates as incomes and education improve, child mortality declines, and more women work, a demographic transition captured in the saying, “Development is the best contraceptive.” India’s experience largely supports this. The states with the highest fertility rates – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh – also have the lowest socioeconomic indicators, especially with regard to women. Bihar, for instance, which has India’s highest fertility rate (3.2), has the largest percentage of illiterate women (26.8 percent). By contrast, low-fertility Kerala has a literacy rate of 99.3 percent, the result of decades-long state focus on basic education and health care. Fertility declines have been especially sharp in India’s cities and towns — where women are more likely to marry later, go to school, and work — and in southern states, which include the IT hub of Bangalore, where education levels and age of marriage are generally higher.

Neighboring countries that have offered wider family planning choices have experienced sharper increases in contraceptive use, says a report by Muttreja. In 2015, when India had five methods available (male and female sterilization, the pill, intrauterine devices, and condoms), contraceptive prevalence in the country was under 50 percent — lower than Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Indonesia, which had seven or more contraceptive options. Even after injectable contraceptives were introduced in India in 2017, female sterilization continued to make up the bulk of modern birth control use.

India is nevertheless stepping up and diversifying its investment in family planning and says it has added 15.5 million contraceptive users since 2012. And this November, the country reiterated its commitment to a human rights framework in family planning. Both national and UN agencies are concentrating on the handful of high-fertility states, with an emphasis on gender equality in family planning. Speeding up fertility reduction in these states will not be easy, says Arokiasamy of the Indian Institute of Population Sciences.

“This is an issue related to local culture, society, politics,” he says. “Changing attitudes takes time.”

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