

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF INDIA AND ITS PEOPLE – CHALLENGE OR THREAT

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Abstract: Since independence India under the leadership of the national leaders and in the frame work of different five year national plans had gone remarkable changes towards its development and growth in different desired areas.

There had been growth in literacy rate, drop in mortality rate and also growth in Human Development Index, Growth in National Income along with growth in Per- Capita Income and Net National income. Also keeping consistency with growths in these vital areas of national scenarios there is steady growth and stability in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Other than this, also there is growth in different other components of national development like growth in industrial productivity, agricultural productivity etc. However, coupled with these opportunities and prospects of growth and development some other threat areas are observed in the horizon of total national development consisting of total demographic profile of India and Indian people. The explosive growth in population in India is taking alarming situation. The population in India has crossed the figure of 130 crores and steadily coming towards the lofty figure of 140 crores which summarily is in a bid to frustrate all the essence of the achievements as mentioned above.

The existing work is an effort to identify the real situation in the national scenario.

Key words: Human Development Index, Literacy rate, Gross Domestic production, National productivity

Demographic Profile of India and its People – Challenge or Threat

1.0 Introduction: The study of demographic profile of existing human resources of a country is essential in order to understand the trend of economic welfare of a country. It is particularly important since human beings of a country are not only instruments of production, growth and development of a country but also because of nature itself, human resource ends in them. In real position in a country what the human beings are, how they are, what is their existing state with respect to individual economy or wealth, literacy, number, rate at which their number is growing along with the composition and distribution of population need to be ascertained in quantitative term in order to ascertain where the country is leading to- towards a direction of development or disastrous distress. The population demography in a country once in desired profile is a challenge to growth and development and in the other way is a threat. In this work an effort is made to analyze the existing demographic profile of India and examine how far this is favorable to growth and development of this country.

2.0 The Theory and State of Demographic Transition: The theory of “demography transition” postulates a three stage sequence of birth and death rate as typically associated with economic development.

2.1 First Stage Demographic Transition: According to this theory, death rates are high in the first stage of an agrarian economy on account of poor diets, primitive sanitation and absence of effective medical aid. Birth rates are also high in this stage as a consequence of widespread prevalence of illiteracy, absence of knowledge of family planning techniques, early age of marriage. In such society the actual rate of growth of population is not high since high birth rate is balanced by high death rate. It is a stage of high growth potential but low actual growth and it is threat to development.

2.2 Second Stage of Demographic Transition: Rise in income levels enables the people to improve their diet. Economic development also brings about all-round improvement including the improvement in transport which improves the supply of food grain. All these factors tend to reduce death rate. Thus in the second stage, birth rate remains high but death begins to decline rapidly. This accelerates the growth of population. High growth potential of first stage is realized in the high actual growth in the second stage as a consequence of decline in death rate.

2.3 Third Stage of Demographic Transition: Economic development further changes the character of the economy from an agrarian to partially industrialized one. With the growth of industrialization, population tends to shift away from rural areas towards urban and commercial centers. Growth of urban population, “with the development of economic roles for women outside the home”, tends to increase the possibility of economic ability that can better be achieved. The consciousness to maintain

reasonable standard of life tends to reduce size of family in an industrialized economy. The characteristics of third stage are low birth rate, low death rate, small family size and low growth rate of population. This is followed by higher rate of average individual income in the family and consequently leading higher per capita income. This is a challenge towards economic development coming out of the threats of earlier stages.

3.0 Size and Growth Rate of Population in India: India presently possesses about 2.4% of total land area of world but India is to support about 17% of total world population.

A study of growth rate of population of India falls into four phases:

1891 – 1921: Stagnant population

1921 – 1951: Steady growth

1951 – 1981: Rapid high growth

1981 – 2005: High growth with definite slowing down

During the first phase of thirty years (1891 to 1921) the population of India grew from 236 million in 1891 to 251 million in 1921 million i.e. 0.19% per annum for the period. The growth of population was held in check by the prevalence of a high death rate against a high birth rate.

Table1: Growth of population in India (1891 – 2008)

Census Year	Populations in Millions	Increase or Decrease in Millions	Percentage Increase or Decrease
1891	236		
1901	236	0.0	0.0
1911	252	+16	+5.7
1921	251	-1	-0.3
<i>1891 - 1921</i>		<i>+15</i>	<i>+0.19</i>
1931	279	+28	+11.0
1941	319	+40	+14.2
1951	361	+42	+13.2
<i>(1921 – 1951)</i>		<i>+110</i>	<i>+1.22</i>
1961	439	+78	+21.5
1971	548	+109	+24.8
1981	683	+135	+24.7
<i>1951 – 1981</i>		<i>+322</i>	<i>+2.14</i>
1991	844	+161	+23.5
2001	1027	+183	+21.3
2008	1154	+127	+12.4

Table2: Compounded annual Growth Rate of Population

1891 – 1921	0.19
1921 – 1951	1.22
1951 - 1981	2.15
1981 – 1991	1.93
1991 - 2001	1.93
2001 – 2008	1.67

Source: Census of India 2001, Series 1, Paper1 of 2001, Provisional Population Totals.

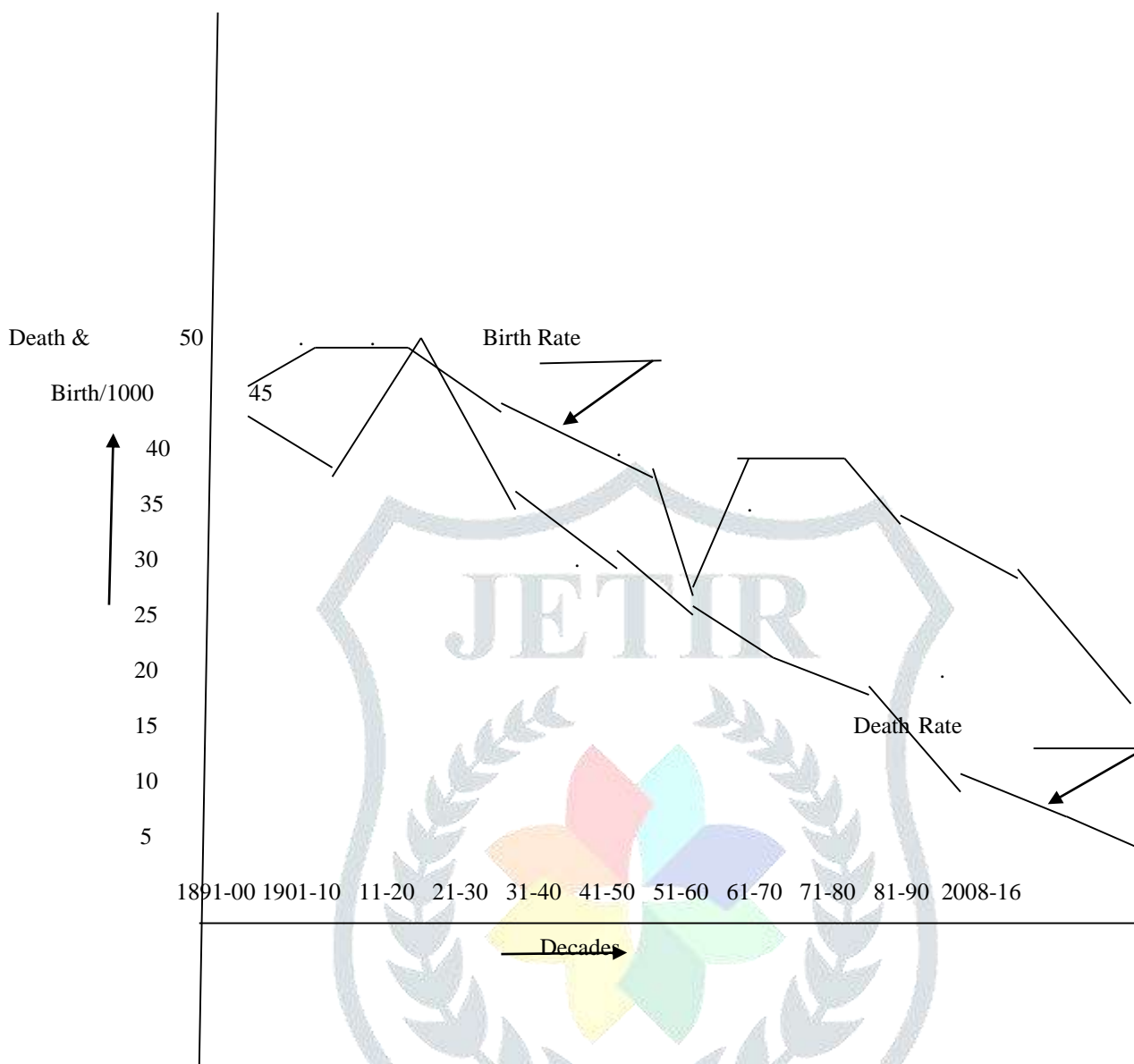
Rate of population growth is a function of birth and death rate. Consequently , variations in birth and death rates can provide an explanation of the accelerations of the population growth experienced in India.

Table 3: Average Annual Birth and Death Rates in India

Decade	Birth per 1000	Death per 1000
1891 - 1900	45.8	44.4
1901 - 1910	48.1	42.6
1911 - 20	49.2	48.6
1921 – 30	46.4	36.3
1931 – 40	45.2	31.2
1941 – 50	30.9	27.4
1951 – 60	40.0	18.0
1961 – 70	41.2	19.2
1971 – 80	37.2	15.0
1981 – 90	32.6	11.1
2008 – 09	22.8	7.4
2015 - 16	17.7	6.3

Source: Census of India, 1971, Age and Life Tables and Census of India 1981, Series1, India, Paper1 of 1984, and Office of Registrar General and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, annual Report(2015 - 16) and economic Survey (2015 – 16).

Figure1: Average Birth and Death Rate



Thus, over the last five decades, both birth and death rates have been declining, but death rate declined at a faster rate. Death rate has already reached very low ebb and whatever the level of health facilities, it cannot fall below 7 – 8 per thousand. The future growth of India’s population shall, therefore, be mainly dependent on the level of birth rate.

4.0 Quality of Population: The quality of population is an important criterion in growth of a country and its economy. People of a country with lower level of education are threat to its growth.

The quality of population can be judged from life expectancy, the level of literacy and level of technical training attained by the people of a country. Up to 1981, it was customary to exclude children in the age group 0-4 and then calculate literacy rate. The census of 1991 has redefined the concept of literacy. It uses the term “literacy rate” related to population aged seven years and above.

Table4: Literacy Rate in India (in %)

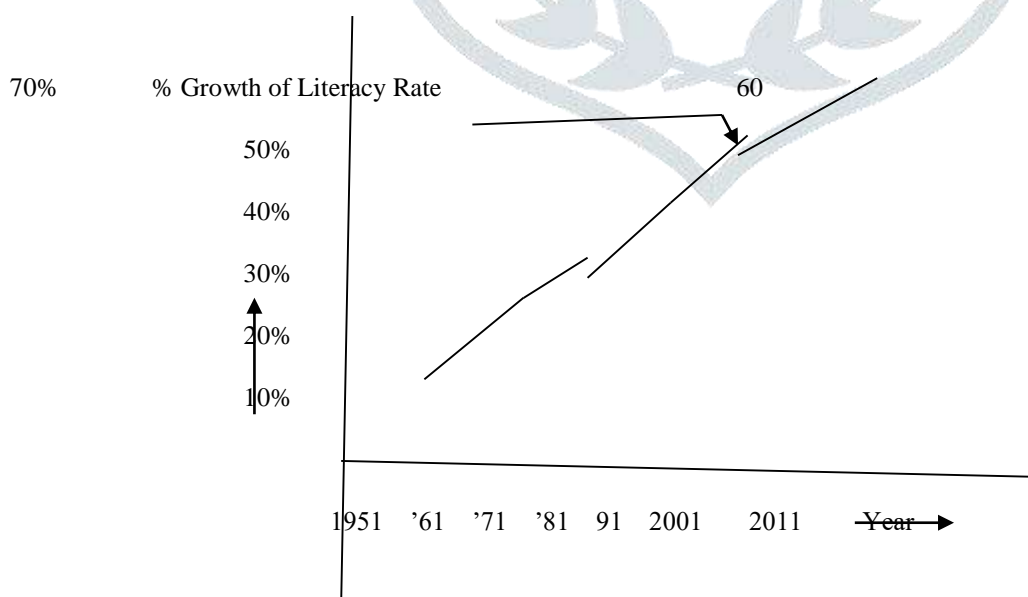
Year	Persons	Male	Female
1951*	18.3	27.2	8.9
1961*	28.4	40.4	15.3
1971*	34.5	46.0	22.0
1981*	41.4 (43.7)	53.4 (56.5)	28.5 (29.5)
1991	52.2	64.1	39.3
2001	65.4	75.8	52.1
2011	73.73	81.78	67.23

Source: Census of India, series 1 India, Paper 1.

Note: *Literacy rates for 1951, 1961 and 1971 relate to population aged 5 years and above. The literacy rates for the year 1981 and 1991 relate to population aged 7 years and above. Literacy rates for population aged 7 years and above in 1981 have been shown in brackets.

Notwithstanding the revised definition, the literacy rate improved from 43.7% in 1981 to 52.2% in 1991, male literacy improved from 56.5% to 64.1% and female literacy from 29.5% to 39.3% during the same period. The growth of literacy rate by 8.5% during 1981-91 decade marks a slight improvement over 1971-81 decade, during which literacy improved by about 7%. The literacy rate has improved from 52.25 in 1991 to 65.45 in 2001. Male literacy has improved by 11.75 and female literacy has improved by 14.9%. “Thus, the increase in literacy rates observed during 1991-2001 respects of persons, males as well females have been highest recorded in comparison to earlier decades since 1951 except on the case of males during 1951-61. The improvement augurs well for the country and needs only to be sustained but required a fillip for the case of fair sex”, according to the census commissioner Mr. J.K.Banthia.

Figure 2: Growth Rate of Literacy Rate in India



5.0 Human development Index (HDI): HDI measures the average achievement in three dimensions of human development:

i) A long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth

ii) Knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate

iii) A decent standard of living as measured by GDP per capita.

Before calculating HDI, an index for each of the three dimensions is created. For this purpose, maximum and minimum values are chosen for each indicator.

Table5: Human Development Index for India (Combined) – Selected States.

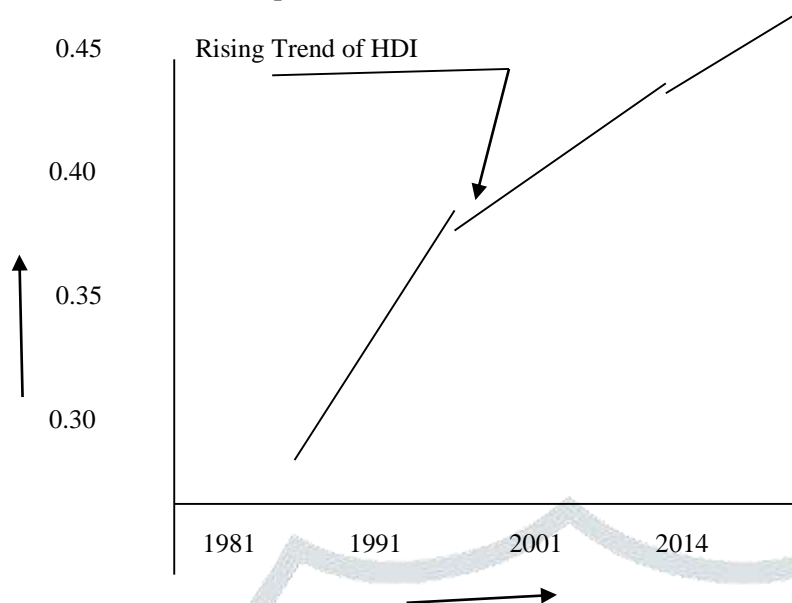
States	1981 value	1981 rank	1991 value	1991 rank	2014 value	2014 rank
Kerala	0.500	1	0.591	1	0.638	1
Punjab	0.411	2	0.475	2	0.537	2
Tamil Nadu	0.343	7	0.466	3	0.531	3
Maharashtra	0.363	3	0.452	4	0.523	4
Haryana	0.360	5	0.443	5	0.509	5
Gujarat	0.360	4	0.431	6	0.479	6
Karnataka	0.346	6	0.412	7	0.478	7
West Bengal	0.305	8	0.404	8	0.472	8
Rajasthan	0.256	12	0.347	11	0.424	9
Andhra Pradesh	0.298	9	0.377	9	0.416	10
Orissa	0.267	11	0.345	12	0.404	11
Madhya Pradesh	0.245	14	0.328	13	0.394	12
Uttar Pradesh	0.255	13	0.314	14	0.388	13
Assam	0.272	10	0.348	10	0.386	14
Bihar	0.237	15	0.308	15	0.367	15
All India	0.302		0.381		0.472	

Source: Planning Commission (2002), National *Human Development Report* (2001)

India has been categorized by the *Human development Report 2007/2008* as a medium human development country. The Human Development Index has risen gradually from 0.302 in 1981 to 0.472 in 2001 and stands to 0.619 in 2005.

A major impediment progress in human development is the very fast growth of population experienced in India. India's population increased from 620.7 million in 1975 to 1,027 million in 2001 giving a growth rate of 2% per annum during the period (1975 -2001), which is fairly high.

Figure 3: Growth of Human Development Index in India



6.0 National Income of India: According to National Income Committee, “A national income estimate measures the volume of commodities and services turned out during a given period, counted without duplication”. Thus, a total of national income measures the flow of goods in an economy. National income as contrasted with national wealth which measures the stock of commodities held by the nationals of country at a point of time is a flow and not a stock.

6.1 CSO Revised National Income Series with 1999-00 as Base Year: The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has revised the existing series of national accounts with 1993 – 94 as the base year with a new series with 1999-00 as the base year.

Table 6: GDP at Constant 1999-00 Prices

Rs. crore

Year	New Series (Base Year 1999-00)	Old Series (Base Year 1993-94)	Growth Rate New series	Growth Rate Old series
1999-00	17,92,292	11,48,367	-	-
2000-01	18,70,387	11,98,592	4.4	4.4
2001-02	19,78,055	12,67,945	5.8	5.8
2002-03	20,52,586	13,18,362	3.8	4.0
2003-04	22,26,041	14,30,548	8.5	8.5
2014-15	23,93,671	15,29,408	7.5	6.9

As a consequence of the widening coverage, the increase in the level of GDP estimates ranges from zero to almost 0.7 percent during 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

Figure 4: GDP Growth Rate at Constant 1999-00 Prices

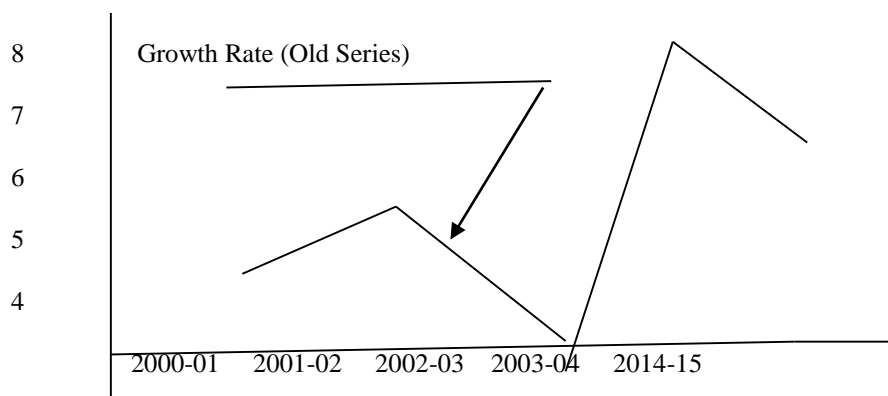


Table 7 provides information about Gross Domestic Product by Industrial origin. It may be noted that share of agriculture including mining in GDP which was 27.3% in 1999-00 declined to 18.9% in 2008-09. But share of secondary sector (Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water supply and Construction) has indicated a marginal increase from 23.0% to 23.8% during the 8 years. Share of services has gone up from 49.75% in 1999-00 to 57.3% in 2008-09.

Table 7: Gross Domestic Product by Industry

Sector	1999-00	2003-04	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing, Mining & quarrying	4,88,109 (27.3)	5,31,302 (23.9)	5,91,353 (20.6)	6,19,121 (19.8)	6,30,289 (18.9)
2. Manufacturing, Construction, electricity, gas and water supply	4,10,646 (23.0)	5,19,322 (23.4)	7,06,280 (24.6)	7,66,358 (24.5)	7,96,215 (23.8)
3. Trade, hotel, transport and communication	3,87,514 (21.7)	5,56,370 (25.0)	7,78,896 (27.1)	8,75,398 (28.0)	9,54,589 (28.6)
4. Financing, insurance, Real estate and business services	2,33,550 (13.1)	2,97,250 (13.4)	4,09,472 (14.3)	4,57,585 (14.6)	4,93,356 (14.8)
5. Public administration, defence and other services	2,66,707 (14.9)	3,18,514 (14.3)	3,85,118 (13.4)	4,11,256 (13.1)	4,64,926 (13.9)
6. Gross domestic product at factor cost	17,86,525 (100)	22,22,758 (100)	28,71,120 (100)	31,29,717 (100)	33,39,375 (100)

Figures in the brackets are percentage of total GDP for the respective year.

Source: Central statistical Organization

7.0: Trends in national Income Growth and structure: In order to understand the effect of changing qualitative trend of demography and the people, a study of trends in national income and economy is necessary. It would be therefore better if the trend in national income is analyzed over the last six decades of planning.

7.1: Trends in Net National Product (NNP) and Per Capita Income: From the data given in Table 8, it is revealed that during the 30-year period (1950-51 to 1980-81), the annual rate of growth of national income (1999-00=100) was the order of 3.5% and that of per capita income was merely 1.4%. Calculated at current prices, the annual rate of growth of net national product was of the order of 9.0% and that of per capita income was 6.7%. A further break-up of the data into three periods reveals that during the first 10 years of planning (1950-51 to 1960-61), net national product increased at the annual rate of 4.2% and the performance of

the economy has been on the decline thereafter. During 1960-61 and 1970-71, the rate of growth of NNP came down to 3.5% and that of per capita NNP to 1.2% per annum. In the subsequent 10 year period (1970-71 to 1980-81), the rate of growth of NNP was 2.9 % and that of per capita NNP slumped to 0.6% per annum.

Table 8: Net National Product (NNP) at Factor Cost and per Capita NNP.

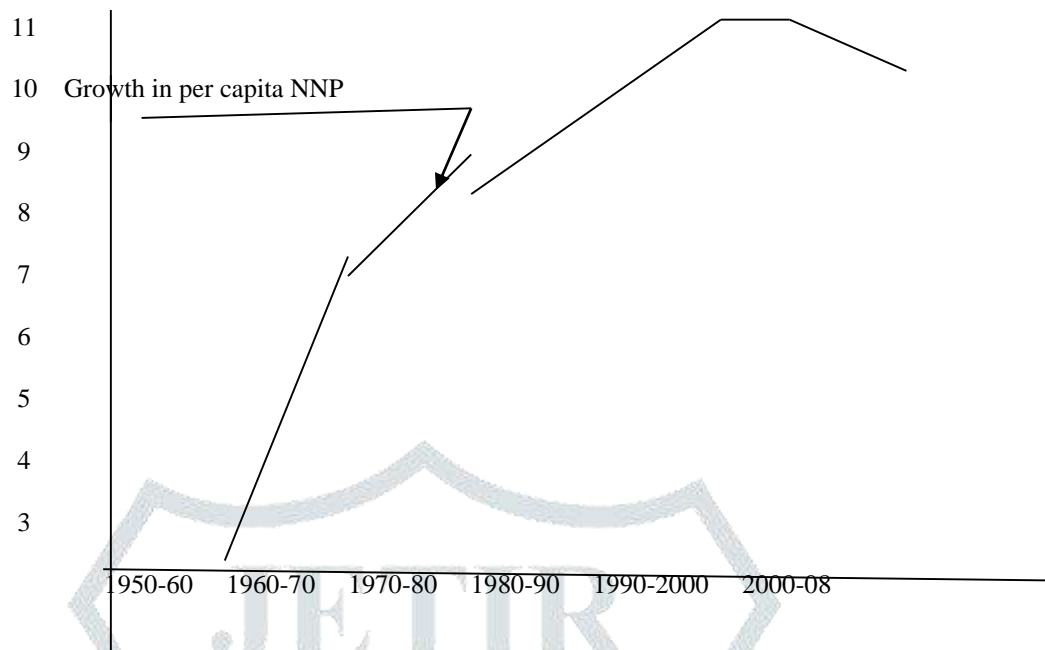
Period	NNP (RsCrore)	Per capita NNP (Rs.)	NNP (Rs. Crore)	Per Capita NNP(Rs.)
	At 1999-00 prices		At Current Prices	
1950-51	204,924	5,708	9,152	255
1960-61	3,09,045	7,121	15,591	359
1970-71	4,37,719	8,091,	40,135	742
1980-81	5,83,548	8,594	1,21,129	1,784
1990-91	9,67,773	11,535	4,56,409	5,440
2000-01	16,47,903	16,172	17,00,467	16,668
2001-02	17,43,466	16,764	18,49,360	17,782
2004-05	21,04,520	19,325	25,26,408	23,199
	At 2004-05 prices		At current prices	
2004-05	26,23,995	24,095	26,23,995	24,095
2005-06	28,72,212	25,969	30,06,469	27,133
2006-07	31,49,912	28,074	34,87,172	31,080
2007-08	34,49,970	30,316	40,31,881	35,430
2008-09	36,721,92	31,321	46,32,304	40,141

Rate of Growth

1950-51 to 1960-61	4.2	2.3	5.5	3.2
1960-61 to 1970-71	3.5	1.2	9.9	7.5
1970-71 to 1980-81	2.9	0.6	11.7	9.2
1980-81 to 1990-91	5.2	3.0	14.2	11.8
1990-91 to 2000-01	5.5	3.4	14.0	11.9
2000-01 to 2008-09	7.5	5.9	12.4	10.7
1950-51 to 1980-81	3.5	1.4	9.0	6.7
1980-81 to 2000-01	5.6	3.2	14.1	11.8
2000-01 to 2004-05	6.4	4.7	10.5	3.6
2004-05 to 2008-09	7.0	5.7	12.1	10.8

Source: Computed and compiled from data given in Economic Survey (2009-10), CSO National Accounts Statistics, 2010

Figure 5: Per Capita Growth in Net National Product (NNP)



8.0 Observation: It is observed from this study that the demographical characteristics of Indian people are on the threshold of change in different respects. As is observed in Table -1, 2 and 3 and also Figure-1, Indian population number is on steady growth rate. Also the qualitative component in respect of literacy rate etc. is also in improving trend, Table-4 and Figure – 2 justify this. Also from the perspective of Human Development Index (HDI) it is observed that the elements of demography of Indian population being associated or correlated with HDI is in support with the observation that demographic profile of Indian population is on a favorable trend of change, This is shown in Table-5 and Figure-3. The initiation of the upward turn in demographic profile of Indian people, as seen from above Tables and graphs, had started taken from almost 1960 and afterwards.

However, the national economy of India is on an upward changing trend. In national scenario there is favorable change in respect of overall GDP and GDP by Industry. This is illustrated in Table-6, Figure-4 and Table-7. Also significant improvement is observed in respect of NNP (Net National Product) at factor cost and also per capita NNP. Table-8 and figure-5 elaborately illustrates this. These growth rates of Indian economy also are seen from above analysis to be since end of decade of sixty and beginning of decade of seventy.

9.0 Conclusion: Indian planning policy and process was formulated and implemented under the guidance and supervision of Indian Planning Commission through successive Five Year Plans. This way by monitoring growth and development of demographic profile of country, India successfully is on the avenue of meeting the favorable challenge of growth of progress and development- development in different areas as is obtained from different analysis of the study. This trend of change in demographic profile is to ascertain challenge over threats of prosperity and development to usher a new horizon- a horizon free from all threats towards the demographic profile itself.

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