



## India's Growing Population Problem and Opportunities in Current Development: A Sociological Study

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### **Introduction:**

The issue of rapid population growth is a major problem among the various economic and social problems of India. According to the data received in December 2020, the population of India is 142 crore 86 lakh 27 thousand 663. India ranks first in the world in terms of population. The additional population is one of the major reasons for many problems such as unemployment, poverty, health, and scarcity of space in India. Controlling additional population growth in India is the solution to many problems. But in the current situation, comparing the productive and unproductive population of India, the questions arises that are there opportunities for development due to the challenge of the growing population problem? Can India attain a global position as a developed, influential, and powerful nation based on the same population growth? Based on these challenges, the study aims to investigate, “India's Growing Population Problem and Opportunities in Current Development: A Sociological Study.”

### **Objectives:**

- 1) To conduct a numerical study of the growing population problem in India.
- 2) To study the effects of the growing population in India.
- 3) Comparative study of productive population and unproductive population in the Indian.
- 4) Exploring opportunities for development based on the current productive population in India.



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### Data Collection Methods:

The researcher has used a secondary data collection method for the presented study. This method has utilized census reports, population-related as well as social and economic problems related reference books, newspapers, study reports, and research papers.

### Assumptions:

- 1) The issue of additional population is one of the major causes of various problems in India.
- 2) India has opportunities for development based on the productive population in the present situation.

A) Numerical study of the growing population problem in India

Table No. 01 "Population of India"

Census year	Population (in crores)	Growth in percentage
1881	23.6	--
1901	23.6	00
1931	27.9	+2.8
1951	36.1	+4.2
1981	68.3	+13.5
2011	121.8	+78.3
2023	142.8	+17.2

Sources:

- 1) Datt and Sundharam: Indian Economy
- 2) Government of India Census Report 2011

Studying the above table number 1, it is clear that India's population is continuously growing except for the years decades 1891 to 1911 and 1921. The population was stable from 1891 to 1901. But from 1901 to 1931, the population grew by 2.8 %. From 1931 to 1951, it increased from 27.36 crores to 36.9 crores, an increase of 9.1 crores. After that, however, the



population of India increased rapidly: 36.1 crores in 1951, 68.3 crores in 1981, and 121.8 crores in 2011. This shows that the government's efforts to control the population during this period have failed. Due to many reasons, such as increasing birth rate and declining death rate, efforts to control this growing population have failed. In recent decades, the birth rate has decreased somewhat, while the declining death rate has also increased, leading to India facing an additional population problem.

### **B) The effects of the growing population in India:**

Many serious consequences of the population growth problem have arisen in India. The growing population has created various social and economic problems in India. While studying the effects of the growing population in India, following important effects are observed:

- 1) Unemployment:** The pace of population increase in India has resulted in increased unemployment. The rate of unemployment in India was 5.27 percent in 2013 and rose to 8.40 percent in 2023. Problems like poverty, malnutrition, crime, and depression are exacerbated by the problem of unemployment.
- 2) Poverty:** When a person cannot meet the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare which are necessary for survival, they fall into poverty. This problem of poverty is becoming more serious due to the increasing population. The total poverty rate in India was 29 percent in 2011-12. Problems like malnutrition, health issues, crime, and depression are increasing due to poverty.
- 3) Shelter:** The increasing population is putting an additional burden on limited land and causing problems with living space.
- 4) Rise in Slum Areas:** The increasing population has led to a shortage of living space, mainly in urban areas, causing a slum problem and increasing issues related to uncleanliness and health.

Table No. Two India: Productive and Unproductive Population (2011)

Sr. No.	Male/Female	Productive Population	Percentage	Unproductive Population	Percentage
1	Female	34,24,38,181	28.28	24,30,29,617	20.07
2	Male	36,17,34,384	29.87	25,91,62,993	21.40
3	Total	70,41,72,565	58.15	50,21,92,610	41.84
4	Unidentified	44,89,802	0.37	--	--

Source: Government of India Census Report 2011

In India, men and women aged between 16 to 59 are included in the Productive group. Men / Women between ages 0 to 15 ages and 60 and above ages are included in the unproductive group. According to the information from the above Table No. 2, dividing the population of India as productive and unproductive in 2011, 70,41,72,565 population that is 58.15 percent population falls into the productive group. On the other hand, 50,21,92,610, which means 41.48 percent of the total population falls into the unproductive group. That means around 17 percent higher population is in the productive group.

### **C) Opportunity for development based on current productive and unproductive population in India:**

When the share of the population in the working or productive group is higher than the unproductive age group, there is the potential for financial profit, known as demographic dividend. Considering India, according to the 2011 census, the population between the age group of 16 to 59 is 58.15 percent, which is almost 17 percent higher than the unproductive group. This indicates that despite facing an additional population problem, India has the opportunity to achieve demographic dividends from that population and promote development. Based on the "Edge Pyramid," it is clear that the population of India is young in the current situation, presenting an opportunity for development.

- 1) Providing skill-based learning opportunities for Indian youth to create skilled manpower in



India, which will help to strengthen India's development and alleviate problems like unemployment, poverty, and malnutrition. The central government has taken steps in India's National Education Policy-2020 to address this.

2) Collecting information from companies, individuals, and organizations in various sectors to determine the types of skilled manpower required for industries, infrastructure sector, the service sector, and the health sector in India. Creating soft skill courses accordingly will promote development.

3) Creating short-term courses that produce skilled manpower and promote development based on it.

4) Providing education and training regarding technology required for the development of the agricultural and rural sector, thereby providing employment opportunities for rural youth in the rural areas only and promoting agricultural sector development resulting in to the development of agrarian society.

5) Accelerating research and acquiring innovative technology in agriculture and the health sector, and training young population in this technology to promote rural development and inclusive development through employment and self employment opportunities.

6) Creating a special employment opportunity policy for women in the productive group with the help of women's self help groups. Developing activities like, education, and training to the women which will help to increase self-employment and promote development. In this way, including the women in the main stream of the development.

7) Collecting research information about the types of skilled manpower required in the other countries which are facing the problem of low populations or low productive group populations. Using this information, there is need to create soft skill courses, short-term courses, and degree-



level subjects in India to provide trained / skilled people to these countries.

**Conclusion:**

- 1) India is facing an additional population problem in the current situation.
- 2) India has a more productive population than an unproductive population.
- 3) India has opportunities for development based on the productive population.
- 4) It is necessary to convert the productive population into skilled manpower.

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