

Population - An emerging problem in Indian subcontinent and its impact on Socio - Political Economy

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Abstract: Human civilization has evolved from cases of famine, death, infections, illness over the years, with the advancement in technology, science and health, we see a reduction in the death rates, people are living longer. India has the second largest population on this earth which is emerging as the biggest threat to its people. With the rise in population we see a rise in demand of resources which India is unable to supply to its people. Population has resulted in poverty, bonded labour and other health issues, Lack of knowledge and education is one of the major cause for the rise in population, followed by religion barriers and refugee problem which is increasing the population with every passing day. Refugee, illegal migrants, lack of family planning and the conservative mentality of the society where taking birth control pills is looked down upon and in many religion using condoms is prohibited, we need educate people, especially sex education needs to be provided followed by organising family planning awareness programmes need to be promoted and we require a new policy for population control in India which is the need of the hour.

Keywords: Human Civilization, Poverty, Population, threat, education, sex education

Introduction

One of the most pressing problem that India is witnessing today is over population. India has a population of 1.38 billion, as per February 2021. India has the second largest population in the world, after China. It is estimated that by 2025, India will cross China and become the country with the largest population, India being a poor country, depended on primary source of economy like Agriculture, with majority of the people living in rural India. With the advance in science and technology and better health care facilities provided in every sector of the society, we see a decrease in death rate and increase in birth rates the fertility rate in India is very high compared to the other countries, we don't see any decline. The increase in population in India is acting as a threat to the national development of the country at the global level. India lacks poor infrastructure, have limited resources to feed such a high population, social beliefs, rituals and customs have also contributed to the high rise in population, though the legal age for marriage of a girl is 18 years and for a boy it is 21, we still come across cases of child marriages in remote villages, where for them rituals and beliefs stand above the law. The demand for a male child, has given birth to a number of children in a family, followed by in a Muslim family, it is common to see that six to seven children per head in a family according to their religious belief, avoid the use of condoms, as it is considered as evil in many parts of the country, poverty has also contributed to the cause of over-population in India, Marriage as an institution is considered to be pure and sacred in the Indian society and is a universal practice, women is married made to many at the reproductive age, thus contributing to the rise of population, there is lack of knowledge and awareness among the people about the harmful impact of over-population in India. The government had introduced many schemes on family planning and various awareness programmes in the rural areas very held to guide them in matters related to family planning. However it wasn't successful, over-population is resulting in environmental degradation, climate change, hampering the lives of tribes and bio-diversity with rapid urbanization, industrialization, globalization and technology advancement more people are shifting to the urban area, followed by refugees, India is a home to millions of refugee specially from Bangladesh and Nepal. Population control is very important now as India don't have enough resources to feed the growing population.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application—as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellants in a methodical and convenient way. Questions were asked to the parents and their children, survey, interviews—consisting of several interrogations which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

1. Population emerging as a problem in India
2. What reasons for the rise in Population in India.
3. How other countries are trying to control their population growth
4. What is India doing to counter this problem.

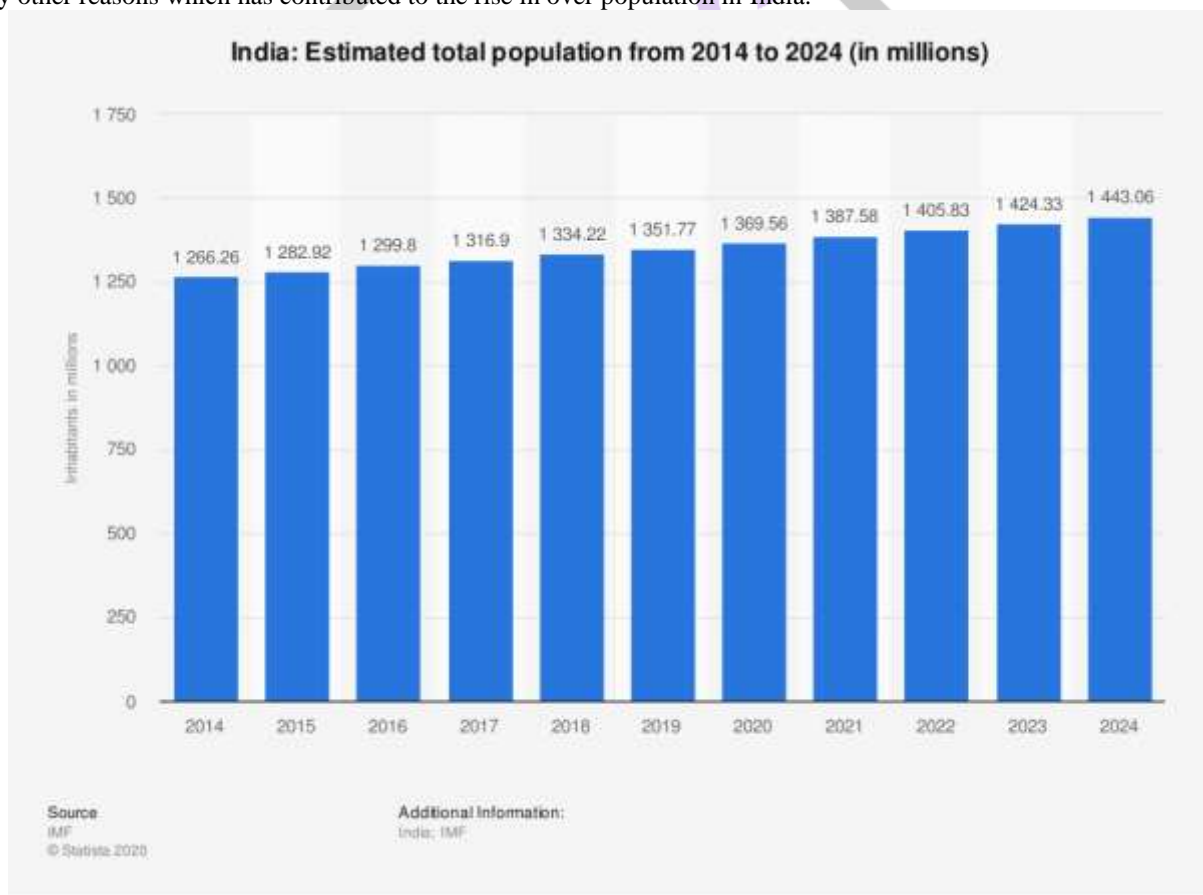
Literature Review

The India population is experiencing geometrical progression while the resources of subsistence are increasing in arithmetical progression. India has to accommodate 16% of the global population in 2.4 per cent land. With 44 children taking birth every minute, our population has been rising by 2.9% every year. China has the world's largest population in the world with efficient and

high economic growth, during the year 1979, China had implemented one child policy per family to control its population, it was a crucial policy to control the rise in population followed by birth control programs and offering economic incentives to poor families. In the year 2016 China ended this policy and allowed married couple that they can give birth to two kids and there was no longer any need to provide family planning service certificate. The Chinese population sees reproduction has a scared thing and a privilege, the state grants only upon the officials fulfilling the duties of the state, when the couple is granted the right of one city, it is mandatory for them to use contraception to prevent further pregnancies. The responsibility for contraception falls on the women as china society runs on patriarchal customs where as we see a decline in Japan population where the population in 2010 was 128 million in 2015, the population came down to 127 million and the current population is 127, 159, 185 the reason behind this is low birth rate and low immigration and it has the high life expectancy in the world where people live happily till the age of 85 years according to the census of 2016, and Japan doesn't accept refugees. Japan 75% of the Land is covered with mountains and 68.5% are forest areas where 90.7% of the people live in cities and 9.3% in the countryside. Lack of marriages have also led to reduce in population growth in Japan. Across the world the population is growing by 1.25%, adding 2500 people per day which in unsustainable. Giving access to education, sending every children to school and empowering women is one of the way by which people can control over population this has happened in countries across the world, However, in India, we very few women have access to education and women brought to the main stream. One child policy in India is considered to be taboo, against religious and cultural, Indian are product of orthodox, belief, conservative and filled with backwardness and are unable to understand, the harmful effect of over population and its effect on the earth, India's economic growth is very slow and not sufficient enough to full fill the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing for its people. However, If India adopts one child policy we can control over-population in India, which will also help in the overall development of the Nation. 10 million people all over the world, where India has water crisis, food security issues how she can feed the whole nation.

Findings

Over population can be delineated as when the human population exceeds the actual carrying capacity of that nation. Reduce in mortality rate and medical facilities followed by depletion of precious resources have contributed to over-population. Advance in technology and science with better medical facilities has provided humanitarian relief and saved the lives of many. However there are many other reasons which has contributed to the rise in over population in India.



The Decline in the Death rates –The root of overpopulation is the huge different between the birth and the death rates in India, if the birth rate would have been equal to the death rates then the balance would have been Stabilized. However we see an increase in birth rates and decline in death rates with the advance in medical services at every layer of the society. With the discovery of agriculture which provided people with the ability to sustain their nutrition and hunger without hunting. Thus creating the first imbalance between the two rates.

Agricultural Advancement – Population explosion and technological revolution happened during the same time. We come across three major revolutions which includes tool-making, agriculture and Industrial revolution. Advancement in agriculture in the 20th century have helped farmers to amplify food production by using fertilizers , herbicides and pesticides which helped famers to produce more and which subsequent led to population explosion .

Better Medical fertilizers – Industrial revolution brought in technological advancement which, biggest reason why the balance has been permanently disturbed. With the advance in Science we were able to produce better means of producing food, which allowed families to feed more people, Medical facilities also enable to fight against many diseases, which has resulted in the decline of population death .Earlier people use to die out of same illness and make had no cure, Amalgamation of better food supplies and advance in medical facilities have balanced the situation and has been regarded as the starting point of overpopulation n India.

Support to overcome poverty -Over population also has a psychological element to it. Poverty is considered as the major cause of overpopulation in India. Lack of educational resources , with high death areas which resulted in increase in birth rates , this is why slums areas are seeing a high rise in population .For years and years , a few people had enough money to live in comfort .The people who lived in poverty would give birth to large families to make up to the high infant mortality rate which would result in over-population and poverty , as more the poverty and less resources , families would are produce of poverty and natural disasters have contributed to the increase in over-population.

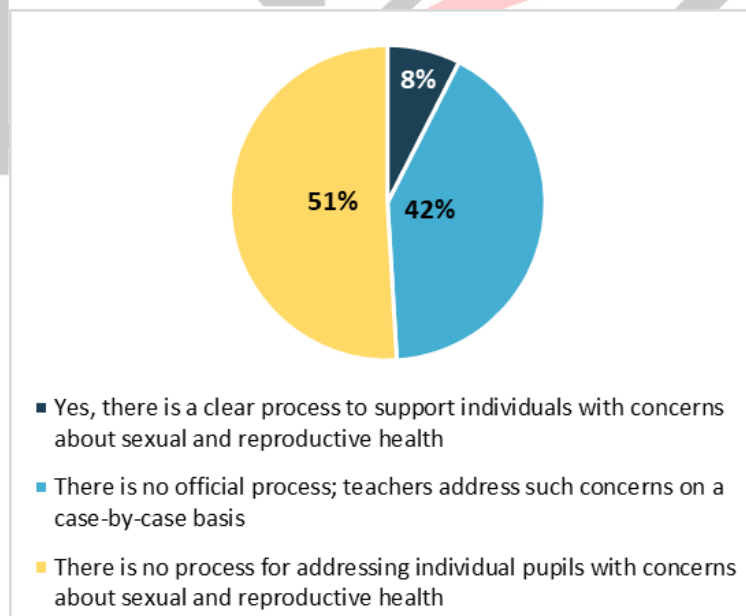
Child Labour-Child labour is one of the biggest challenge to over-population, according to 2011 census, 1.01 million children are working as child labour, and out of which boys contribute to 5.6 million are girls to 4.5 million. Child labour is illegal in India and strict laws are more against this practice. Across the world 150 million children are currently working as child labours. The children acts as source of income for the poor families who start working from a very young age and have lack of access to education and opportunities.

Advancement in Fertility Treatment –With the advancement in technology and discovery in science , fertility treatment has provide couples with the opportunity to undergo fertility treatment method so that they are able to conceive and have their own babies , we have effective medicines by which we can increase the chances of conception which can result in high birth rates .

Immigration and Refugee –People usually prefer to shift to places where they get better job and living opportunities, and also because of environmental disaster, one has to shift from their homeland to other state or country, or from rural to urban for better facilities, India is home to around lakh of refugee across the globe especially from neighbours like Bangladesh and Nepal, Sri Lanka Tamils and Myanmar- Rohigyas which has resulted in over-population in India

Lack of Family Planning – India is a country where most of the people resist in rural India , followed by high rates of illiterate , most of the people live below poverty line both in Urban and Rural and have little or knowledge about family planning , early marriage also increases the chance of producing more children. Lack of quality knowledge and lack of understanding about family planning are the causes of over population and stimulates morality rate.

Lack of Contraceptives use and condoms- In rural India the use of condoms and contraceptives is prohibited because of lack of access and second it is a taboo and against their rituals for them child is a gift of god, In Muslims the use of condoms is prohibited, followed by social stagima , and conservative nature of the society further contributes to over population.



The Figure indicates the lack of sex education in India

This rise in over-population is encountering a number of challenges which are as follows

Depletion of natural Resources-No resource on this is unlimited even the natural resources, the earth can produce only a limited amount of water and food .Today we are having shortage of food and water to serve the society, most of the environment degradation that is taking place from the past 50 years is because of rapid growth of population, cutting down of forest and hampering the wild life, causing air pollution and creating many other problems.

Environment degradation- Over use of Natural resources like coal, oil and natural gas , has led to serious environment issues followed by industrial growth and large number of vehicles on the road has led to serious decline in the air quality , globalisation , rapid urbanization , over population is resulting in rapid climate change , rise in sea level , global warning , air , water and noise pollution .

Conflicts and Wars- Conflict and war on natural resources something that is becoming very common with the rise in population and shortage in the availability of water , Trans—border conflict on water issues are very common today , we have examples of china and India , India and Bangladesh , India and Nepal over the use of water .

Rise in Unemployment –Due to over population , we see a rise in the rate of unemployment , as the country does not so many jobs to support the growing population , today 94% of the population in India works under the unorganised sector , with no guarantee of permanent service , moreover we see a decline in the rate of women in the employment sector , because of discrimination faced at the working sector , bounded by patriarchal society and the question of safety and security of the working women . Today women are very much required the growth and development of the nation, Empowerment of women can help to control over-population in India and providing them proper education.

High Cost of living – 78 million people in the urban sector in India lives near the slum area. The costing of living is very high and there is huge gap between the demand and supply system. The prices of necessary commodities including food, clothing, shelter and health care facilities has been very expensive which the poor and lower middle class people can't afford. Poverty is directly linked with manmade and natural disaster followed by environment degradation.

Malnutrition , starvation and famine- There is lack of resources available , with poor agriculture facilities , old method of growing crops , soil salinity , soil erosion has made the agriculture land unfit for growing crops , people are dying out of starvation , In India every second child under the age group from 0-5 years die out of malnutrition and shortage of food . India has been a product of famine and has experienced the worst drought, as India is depended on monsoon for their agriculture, and usually produces crops which requires more water, has further increased the problem, due to the time or less rainfall, the growth of crops is less and we have shortage of food. India even wastes tonnes of food when it comes to the urban sector, which can serve poor for many years.

Extinction- Extinction of wildlife and birds due to continue cutting down of forest for construction purposes and installation of wind tribunes near the coastline has distributed with a rise in population, we see a decline in the wildlife and other species, It is estimated that 50% of the world's species will be at the risk of extinction due to continues damage to the environment and nature.

Lack of education in India and other social and economic factors have also contributed to over-population in India, domestic violence, lack of women empowerment has resulted in over population.

Conclusion

Population growth is emerging as a global threat in the world, especially in India where .India is finding it difficult to tackle the problem of population due to uncountable reasons , where religion and customs acts as a major hurdle , children's are considered as gift of god and this mindset can't be changed . Increase in population has resulted in large scale poverty in India where 90% of the people are living below poverty line , each family having 3 to 4 children , they don't use condoms or take birth control pills , lack of illiteracy and sex education has resulted in rise in bonded labour , and other health diseases , lack of preventive methods , lack of family planning has landed us in this situation . We need to organise family awareness programmes along with organise workshop on sex education and use of pills for controlling birth followed by encourage society to adopt two child policy to control population.

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