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Megha Middha, is working as an Assistant Professor of Law in Mody University of Science and Technology, Lakshmanagarh, Sikar (Rajasthan). She has an experience in the teaching of almost 3 years. She has completed her graduation in BBA LL.B (H) from Amity University, Rajasthan (Gold Medalist) and did her post-graduation (LL.M in Business Laws) from NLSIU, Bengaluru. Currently, she is enrolled in a Ph.D. course in the Department of Law at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (Rajasthan). She wishes to excel in academics and research and contribute as much as she can to society. Through her interactions with the students, she tries to inculcate a sense of deep thinking power in her students and enlighten and guide them to the fact how they can bring a change to the society

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Assistant professor of Law

Mrs.S.Kalpna, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law, Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8 Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1 Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration. 10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.



Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC - NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR - Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

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An Overview Of The Viable Impact Of Rising Population On The Economy And Analyzing Population Control Policy With A Special Reference To UP Population Policy 2021

Authored By-Vidhi Panjwani

Abstract

The world's population has become one of the most pressing challenges in terms of socioeconomic progress of the various countries. Population is the one of the core factors which determines basic standard of living in any country. Increasing Population is becoming a liability on the developing countries rather than an asset. The present paper throws light on the ambits of increasing rate of Population in India and their relative effect on the Economic Development of the Country. The paper analyses the possible impacts of upcoming population control bills in different states of India. The paper also discusses the population growth as a constraint to the economy and further gives some suggestions and recommendations for the Population Control. The paper compares and analyzes the socio-economic condition of India with other countries of the world where there is effective population control laws and policies.

Material And Methods

The methods used in this research is an amalgamation of Doctrinal and analytical methods. The researcher has collected data from information such as journals, websites, newspapers, reports, articles and other relevant sources of data.

Introduction

It is a well-established fact that resources are limited and wants are never-ending. With the rapid increase in Population, these resources will be consumed by a greater number of people keeping in mind the fact that the number of resources present is the same. Accordingly, the number of natural resources reserved for each individual will decrease and will also lead to starvation, war and diseases. The problem of Increasing Population is now handled by various countries by enacting the Population Control laws which set out different policies to combat the situation. These Laws also have varied impacts on the Socioeconomic development of that particular country.

Increasing Rate Of Population

We all knew that the population is increasing at a faster rate than the increasing resources available to all of us. With an increase in population, the need for Land, water and food also increases by default, which directly affects the poverty rate and living standards as people go deeper in their existing intergenerational poverty. The Human Population Increase expansion is also a major contributor to the environmental issues existing all over the world¹.

Causes for this expanding population may be different in different countries but almost all of them are related to Poverty, decreasing child and infant mortality rate, immigration, lack of education, migration etc. There is an apprehension that increasing population will also increase innovation and will take production to higher levels but we must not forget that there is an equal or large number of consumers too and they need more resources to thrive².

Coming to India, the Population is rapidly growing to pose a serious threat to the economy and society as well. It has become the second most populated country in the world and will soon surpass China in this race if the percentage of the increasing population remains the same. This also has various effects such as lack of water, lower life expectancy, extinction of wildlife animals, climate change and the list go on.

¹ **Ecavo, Overpopulation: The Causes, Effects and Potential Solutions, (July 28,2021)**
<https://ecavo.com/overpopulation-causes-effects-solutions/>

² **Puja Mondal, Population Growth: Characteristics and Explosion of Population Growth, (July 28,2021)** <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/population/population-growth-causes-characteristics-and-explosion-of-population-growth/9968>

Population And Its Effect On Economy

This is simple and very clear from ages that as soon as the population will increase, consumers will increase and automatically the supply will increase in the market. Also, the growing population tends to make innovations and technology. We must remember that the birth rate is directly proportional to the number of parents investing in their education, lifestyle, big homes to ensure the comfort and privacy of their children and this all have a positive effect on the economic growth of a country. Because as the population increases, so does the sales of products and services.

But not to forget that the broader view of the growing population is completely different. The increasing rate of population hinders the economic development in many ways such as:

- With an increase in population, there is overusing of natural resources which are limited on earth. In a case where people are more dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, there is a declining area of cultivable land available to each family as we know that land supply is inelastic. Also, the fertility of soil may decline at one point in time or another and this is again a problem in growing crops efficiently.
- In counties where the development is still in process, a large number of people reside in rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture and its related activities. And all members of the family get themselves occupied on the same piece of land even when there is no need for more people. This is what is known as Disguised Unemployment and also declines the per capita productivity as an effect of the same.
- The problem of growing Population further retards the Capital formation. Per capita income declines with a rise in the number of populations as now parents have the responsibility to nourish more children with the same income. This leads to a condition of low savings and consequently low investment.
- The problem of unemployment and under-employment is also one of the disadvantages of the increasing population. With the growing population, there is pressure to expand jobs in the country. This also reduces income and investment. And as a result, capital formation gets retarded and employment possibilities are reduced.
- Not only these but also various other problems occur as a result of Overpopulation. Some of these are Inadequate rainfall, high child mortality rate, extreme poverty, loss of ecosystems, deforestation, increased pollution, countless airborne diseases

A Brief About China's Population Control Policy

To boost the economy and living standards, China implemented the one-child policy in 1979. In addition to it, it also provides birth control programs and various economic incentives to parents with fewer children. In 2016, China abolished this policy and allowed couples to have two children to overcome the ageing problem and gender imbalance in the country.

The situation remained the same and China continued observing the sharp decline in its population. One of the main reasons for such decline was the developed mindset in the couples to have one child only, due to several reasons or we can say consequences of one child policy implemented for decades. There was workplace discrimination and women still have to face the consequences of their maternity choices. Although, there are various laws to curb this discrimination but they take a lot of time to provide justice.

UP Population (Control, Stabilization, And Welfare) Draft

Bill, 2021

The Draft was released by Law Commission on 11th July 2021. The main aim of the draft bill is to control population, Affordability of better and quality sexual and reproductive health and related facilities, to promote sustainable development with equitable distribution, to decline the percentage of gross fertility rate and for the welfare of its population.

As per the draft bill, the policy of two children will be implemented in the state and the violators will be debarred from competing in local body elections, applying in all kinds of Governments jobs, receiving government subsidies and limit of ration card units up to four.

Besides all the disincentives, there are incentives too for public servants who will adopt the two-child policy. Incentives such as two additional increments, maternity and paternity leave for 12 months, three per cent increase in the employer's contribution fund under the national pension scheme, free health care and insurance services to spouse and rebate on charges of water, electricity, house tax etc.

Advantages:

1. **Quality Education:** The right to education is guaranteed as one of the fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution. The main objective is to provide quality education and not just education to the students who cannot afford to go to private schools and pay a hefty amount of fees. Poverty and education are directly proportional to each other in the case of

a country like India, where people below the poverty line generally don't spend on their children's education, especially in the case of girls. With the implementation of this draft bill, people will spend more on the education of the children considering the fact that they will have only two children to spend their income and savings on.

2. **Environment:** With the decrease in Population, there will also be a decrease in pollution levels in the state. Article 48 (A) of the Indian Constitution also imposes the duty on the state to protect the environment³. Rising Population and Environment are directly linked with each other. As soon as the population rises, there is an increase in the cutting of trees due to more consumption and will expose people to all kinds of pollution.

Disadvantages

1. **Low female-to-male ratios:** A long term effect of this Draft bill in human diversification can be a skewed sex ratio. With each passing year, the number of girls in India is declining. In a country like India, where people still are of the patriarchal mindset, where without such restriction on no. of children per couple is not prevalent, even then there exists massive discrimination based on gender and leads to sex-selective abortion. Restricting the couples will lead to female foeticide as demand for boys in both urban and rural is well documented⁴. The Two child policy will increase the already existing imbalance between sex ratios.
2. **Violation of Reproductive Rights:** This policy will lead to the violation of a woman's freedom to make decisions related to her body. As in the case of Suchita Srivastava & Anr. V. Chandigarh Administration, the Supreme court observed that women have the right to make reproductive decisions related to them. It is also an integral part of their Right to personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution⁵. This draft bill provides the public servants with multiple incentives who will adopt this policy and hence it will exert an influence on their Right to Reproductive freedom.
3. **No Significant increase in Natural Resources:** The rich always consume more of the natural resources than the poor section of society.

³ INDIA CONST. art. 48, cl. a.

⁴ Vidhi Panjwani, Death in womb- Female foeticide, SBHAMBHRIADVOCATES, (July 24, 2021) <https://www.sbhambriadvocates.com/post/death-in-womb-female-foeticide>

⁵ INDIA CONST. art. 21.

And if the proposed draft bill is implemented, then there will be no significant increase as rich people will continue consuming that number of resources with the use of money in hand. So, the only change this policy aims at is to reduce the number of poor families in India.

4. **Poor People will become Poorer:** Nowadays, it is observed that educated couples give birth to fewer children. It is generally the poor people who have three or more children. And so, denying them subsidies and other benefits of government welfare schemes will push them deep into poverty and will give rise to hunger deaths even.
5. **Effect on the economic development of the country:** This proposed legislation will increase the poverty in the country and will result in problems such as low standard of living, less investment, less saving and hence, a decrease in per capita income of the people.

Suggestions And Recommendations To Overcome The Problem Of Population Explosion

- **Raising Awareness:** Awareness is the most important step which must be taken to curb the rising population. Government must take steps to aware people living in rural areas, illiterate people about family planning and other benefits of having not more than two children.
- **Empowering and Educating woman:** Education has a strong motivational impact in controlling the issue of overpopulation. They must be taught the advantages of a small family so that they develop an understanding of having not more than two children after getting married. Women living in male-dominated societies do not get access to education in their childhood and are pressurized to have three or more children after the marriage. More and more women must be empowered to take their reproductive decisions themselves.
- **Promoting Family Planning:** Family Planning involves planning the number of children, and the period between two children. It is done with the help of various contraception methods. Family planning not only helps the couples in having the desired number of children but also help in improving the mother's health and contribute significantly to the social and economic development of the country.

- **Economic Development:** China had seen economic progress with the increasing population. Also, if the people in India, are made aware of the fact that even they can become rich and enjoy all luxuries enjoyed by wealthier sections of society. This will also ingrain a thought in them that if they give birth to one or two children, then their way to becoming rich will be achieved sooner.
- **Adoption should be also prioritized:** There are many children who don't have parents or any guardian to take care of them. If adopted they can get better education and upbringing and will also stabilized the problem of rising population.

Some other Suggestions are as follows:

- Investment in Health Infrastructure and services: to reduce child and infant mortality rate.
- Focusing more on Socio-economic issues.
- Focusing on Gender equity.
- Increasing the standard of living pf people.

Conclusion

In India, the population is rising at a level higher than the resources and it's the high time, people of India must be made aware about the self-control methods and the need to control population.

The government should also focus on improving the health of children and especially the maternal health, nutrition, education. Through these steps, not only we'll move forward with stabilization of the population but also the quality of the population will be improved which can surely help the economy of the country in the longer run. Despite the various efforts taken by the government, the issue is still the same and more serious. And to combat such a problem we must take measures at an individual level too.

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