

# Demographic Characteristics and Development in North Bihar

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The economic prosperity of our people depends upon the working population rather than the total population. Unfortunately, about two-third of our population constitute of non-workers and only one-third of our people are workers. The defective use of population is mainly dependent upon its demographic occupational as well as institutional characteristics. These aspects of population are extremely helpful in understanding aerial variation in the human resource and its use within the specified sets of physiographic conditions. Block level census of Indian population statistics has been used.

Many geographers, economist, sociologist and anthropologist have tried to pin out the subject matter of demography. Some of the noted are Alex carrel, dynchand, Lorimer, Benjamin, Thomson, Harison, Spencer, Moore etc.

## **Size, Density and Growth of population :-**

Among several components of demographic study, growth of population occupies the foremost position because all other traits of demographic study are related to the physical number of the population. Rate of change of absolute number of population with reference to space and specific time frame is called growth of population. Thus the rate of growth of population is a function of birth and death rate. It may be positive or negative depending upon the resultant of interaction between birth number and death number. Consequently the variation in birth and death rates can provide an explanation of the acceleration of the population growth experiment anywhere.

TABLE 1

## TRENDS OF GROWTH OF POPULATION

Year	Population (Crore)	Decadal Growth (%)	Annual Growth (%)	India's total pop. Crore	Decadal Growth
1961	4.64	+19.76	1.97	43.92	+21.5
1971	5.63	+21.33	2.13	54.81	+24.8
1981	6.99	+24.06	2.40	68.38	+24.7
1991	8.63	+23.34	2.34	84.39	+23.5
2001	8.29	-3.94	+3.94	102.87	+21.3
2011	10.87	+30.01	3.00	123.06	+19.4

From above table many interesting facts come to the fore. The total population of Bihar (except in 1911-1921 census decades) went up incessantly. The decline in population in 1911-21 census decades was due to unprecedented cause in the form of large scale death caused by plague and malaria like diseases. Almost entire India was afflicted with these fatal diseases.

The decline in 1991-2001 census period was caused by the bifurcation of Bihar .

The population figure of 1991 was innumerate figure for the whole Bihar, while as innumerate figure for 2001 was only of truncated Bihar . This is why slight negative trend in population growth was noticed from area point of view Bihar holds about 4.52% of the total Geographical area of India while as its population contributes more than 8% of the total population of India . Thus Bihar is a fit example of the man land ratio.

The region under reference presents even more alarming situation so far trends of population growth is concerned. The estimated population growth rate of Bihar would go up from 28.62% in preceding decade to more than 30% in 2011. North Bihar has 56.86% and 62.36% area and population of Bihar respectively.

It is clear that north Bihar has more than 56% and 5% of the total population of Bihar and India respectively. The rate of growth of population was very alarming in north Bihar. Its total population in 1991 was 3.69crore which went up to 5.17crore in 2001. It resulted in abrupt increase in the density of population per km square, which went up to 945 in 2001 from 783 in 1991. High birth rate, improving sanitary condition,

low in front death rate, increase in life expectancy, early marriage, social dogmas, religious bias etc. are some of the important factors which have been responsible for high rate of growth of population.

Table – 2

Table2:AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITYRATESININDIA AND BIHAR

Age- Group (Years)	INDIA		BIHAR	
	1988	1998	1988	1998
15-19	259	237	260	239
20-24	320	308	322	314
25-29	238	209	232	213
30-34	138.5	122	139	122
35-39	82	65.8	822	66
40-45	39	31.8	39	31
TER	5.4	4.9	5.7	5
GFR	170.8	154	171.6	155.2

Prof. Trewartha has stated "rate of growth of population is a function of birth rate and death rate. Consequently, variations in birth and death rates can convincingly provide an explanation of the acceleration of the population growth in India." Birth and death rates are subject to change with reference to time, place and person. Birth rate is also dependent on fertility state of woman and death rate is related to hygienic condition. Fertility is also subject to the marital status of male and female women in the age- group of 15 and 35 years are more fertile.

From the above description it has become crystal clear that India in general and the study area in particular is a boiling point from the point of view of population growth. Young population is considered to be boon for all sorts of development. Due to lack of resources or non-utilization of resources in the state has been acting against the fortune of the state Distribution of density changes from district to district. But one general trend which is observable from distribution map is that it is declining from west to east. Decline is more pronounced to the fringe of the region. Except west Champaran and East Champaran the central and the north western parts of north Bihar seer to be sea of humanity. On the basis of the pattern of distribution of density of population the region under study may be grouped into the following categories:-

### 1) District having the highest density:-

Districts belonging to this category have density above 1200 person/km square. Sheohar, Dharbhanga, Vaishali, Begusarai, Saran and Siwan districts of North Bihar under this category. In south Bihar, Patna is solitary district which density is 1471 person/km square. Among all districts of Bihar Sheohar ranks first, so far density of population is concerned. These districts have only about 17% area of the total area of the state while as, its share in the states total population exceeds 28%.

### 2) District having high density:-

Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Madhubani and Gopalganj of North Bihar & South Bihar represents 2nd category. These districts had more than 1000 person per km square in 2001. There six districts have 14.41 and 19.25% of the total population and area of Bihar respectively.

### 3) District having medium density:-

East Champaran, Saharsa, Khagaria & Madhepura of North Bihar and Bhagalpur, Jahanabad, Buxer and Munger of South Bihar belong to 3rd category. These districts together hold 18% and slightly more than 24% area and population of the state respectively. From this category downward, one can observe reversal of trend. First two groups represent region of man: land ratio, while as, from 3rd category to 5th category have land: man ratio.

## Literacy pattern

Education is an important input for social change and economic development through education not only knowledge is imparted but skills, interest, values, attitudes and aspiration of people are also developed.

Literacy rate of population is to the quality of population. Now, “literacy rate” has been calculated for population aged seven years and above.

The literacy rate improved from 43.7% in 1981 to 52.2% in 1991 to 65.4% in 2001. During the same period, the literacy rate in Bihar improved from 32.03 to 38.54% in 1991 to 47.00 in 2001. Bihar recorded considerable progress on this front despite, it stood at last position.

## **LIFE EXPECTANCY :-**

In ratio life expectancy at birth 46.4 years for the decade 1961-70-47.1 years for the males, and 45.6 years for females. Compared to figure of early decades the average expectation of life improved considerably. It was 54 year in 1981 and stands at 65.3 year in 2001. One important factor depressing like expectancy was the high level of infant morality. During the last two decades infant morality has shown a significant decline from 219 per thousand in 1961 to 68 in 2000. This is largely the result of an improvement of maternity services and better care of the children.

## **POPULATION GROWTH AS A RETARDING FACTORS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The process of economic development involves the utilization of physical resource of a nation by the labour force of a country so that productive potential in a country is realised. In this effort of development there is no doubt that the labour force of the country makes a positive contribution, but it is equally true that rapidly growing population retards the process of development. The impact of rising population acting as a drag on economic resource is felt in a variety of ways. It would be of interesting to examine the problem in this setting.

### **1. Population and growth of national per capita income :-**

During 1980-81 and 2000-01, the annual average growth of net national product was 5.4% and of per capita product (income) was 3.4%.

### **2. Population and Food Supply :-**

Between 1921 and 2001, the cultivated area per capita dropped from 1.11 acres to 0.32 acres, indicating fall of 71%. To compensate for this fall in cultivating land men ratio, it is imperative that efforts be made to raise productivity.

Between 1956 and 1977, net availability of food grains increased from 63 million tonnes to 176 million tonnes, signifying an increase of 181%. But during the same period, population increase from 397 million to 960 million, i.e. 240%.

### **3. Population and Unemployment :-**

Rising population is accompanied by a rise in the labour force of the community. Hence it makes the solution of the problem of unemployment more difficult. On the basis of NSS data, It has been revealed that the number of unemployed has increased from

20.13 million in 193-94 to 26.58 million in 1994-2000. The problem of unemployment will become more glaring in the future.

#### 4. Increase in population and capital formation :-

The present rate of growth of population in India is 1.9% per annum. To maintain a constant per capital real income national income must rise at the rate of 1.9% per annum. To achieve this capital investment is necessary. The capital output ratio for the Indian economy at present has been estimated at 4.1 which implies that about an increase of one unit of output.

Thus, in order to bring out an increase of national income at the rate of 1.9%, capital accumulation of the order of about 8% is necessary.

Some aspects of demographic features have not been dealt with due to non-availability of data. However, from above description it can safely be concluded that Bihar, especially north Bihar region is a state having dense concentration of population physical as well as culture constraints have been acting as retarding factor and State Government is doing its best to uplift the economic conditions of the state through developing infrastructures.

#### Conclusion :-

From the above analysis it can be concluded that population is growing in Bihar at an alarming rate. The age sex ratio is not appropriate and the attempts made by government and non governmental organisations are insufficient. Thus there is urgent need to regulate a viable population for qualitative life in Bihar.

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