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Rig Veda

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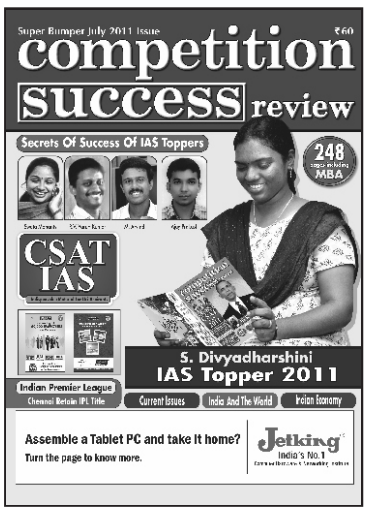


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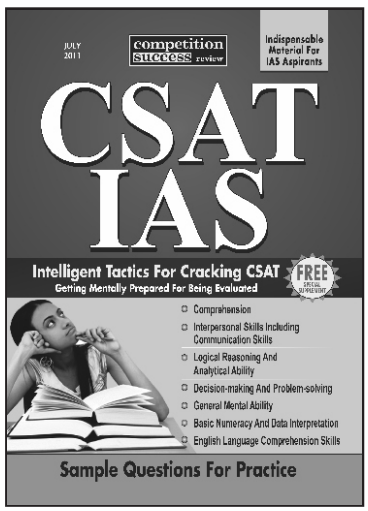
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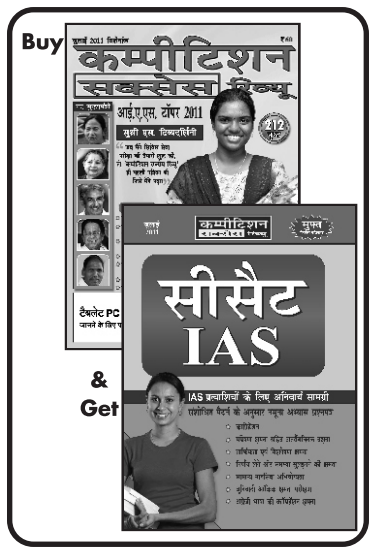
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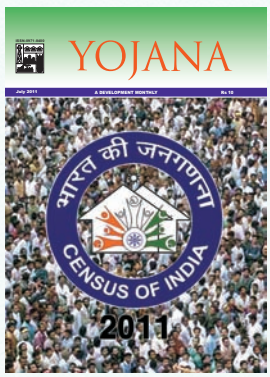
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About the Issue



The decades of efforts aimed at containing population growth in the country have finally started yielding results, albeit mixed ones. As the provisional results of the 2011 census reveal, we have a lot to feel happy and proud about -but this happiness comes with a baggage of some very serious concerns.

With the growth rate of population slowing down to 17.64from the earlier 21.54 , we can hope to see our population stabilizing earlier than we had expected. The sustained campaign by central and state governments, non government organizations and leaders of the society to educate our masses have also borne fruit – with literacy levels having risen to 74.04 from 64.83 in 2001. What is more heartening in this regard is the fact that among these additional literates the number of women is more than that of men. India is finally giving due thought to the education of her daughters. We are now 4.91 points closer to bridging the gender gap in literacy.

However, while India may have started showing concern about her daughters' education, the same cannot be said about her enthusiasm in welcoming female offsprings into the family- at least in major parts of the country. The alarming and continuous drop in the Child Sex Ratio over the years is not just a matter of serious concern for the nation but also a matter of shame for any civilized society. Studies point to the growing scale of son preference and the resultant sex- selective abortion or female foeticide as the major reason for this drop in CSR. The trend seems to be more alarming in the northern and the western parts of the country. Clearly, the legislation preventing sex-selective abortion has proved totally ineffectual, and we need to work out more effective strategies in this regard.

Apart from this major problem, the continued, less than satisfactory performance of the Empowered Action Group of States also needs to be addressed afresh. Not that these states have not made any progress –but the current rate of change is not good enough to ensure a satisfactory rate of development in these states, nor a fast attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

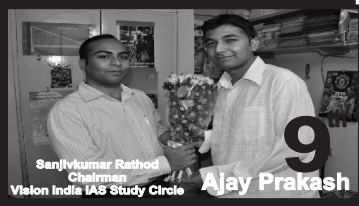
With a largely young population, problems associates with ageing of population may not appear an urgency for the country. Nevertheless, these problems need to be tackled with advance planning. While the going is still good, India needs to look into the future and plan how it will take care of its elderly in the years to come.

The present issue of Yojana brings to you views and analyses from demography experts with regard to the major issues that the Census 2011 has thrown up, with suggestions on how policies and strategies need to be shaped to tackle these issues. ❑

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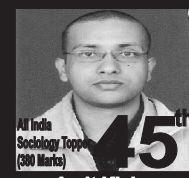


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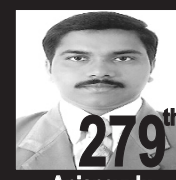

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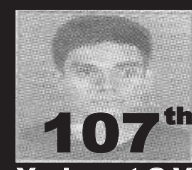
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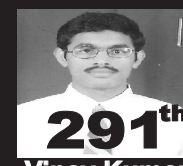
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Census of India 2011: Some Highlights

Ashish Bose



The CSR has continuously declined from 976 in 1961 to 914 in 2011. It should certainly be a cause for concern to our leaders of society and the government

THE INDIAN census is a remarkable administrative feat. Census 2011 was the largest such exercise in the world. Our census history goes back to 1872 when although a census was conducted, it is not regarded as a regular census as it was not conducted at the same time. Since 1881 India has conducted decennial censuses without any interruption. We should be proud of our census. China conducted a census in 2010 but in terms of scope, coverage and comprehensiveness our census questionnaires go much beyond a headcount. Granted, China's headcount is higher than ours in 2011 but there the ball stops. We have numerous tables on the demographic, social and economic life of the people in this country of great demographic diversity.

The first step in the 2011 census was conducting houselisting in 2010 in every village, town and city in India. Along with it a Housing census was also conducted. The questionnaire had as many as 35 questions and collected valuable data. The enumeration of households took place from February 9 to 28, 2011 and the provisional results were declared towards the end of March 2011. In fact a printed monograph running into 189 pages was available for the general reader, apart from the website.

Paper 1 of Census 2011 on **Provisional Population Totals** was released by Dr. C. Chandramouli, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. In this brief article, I shall give some highlights. But before I do so, I would like to make a comment on the format of data presentation. Usually, all the 35 states are put in an alphabetical order and so also the Union Territories (UTs). In an earlier case, the states and UTs were presented as per geographical regions. This

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again was not user-friendly. My methodology of formatting data presentation is to classify states & UTs according to **population size** as follows: A. 10 million – plus states, B. states with 1-10 million population and C. States and UTs with population below 1 million. Table 1 gives the total population in 2011, the decadal (2001-11) growth rate and the sex ratio (females per 1000 males).

Table 1. Population size, Growth rate and Sex Ratio, 2011

	India/State/ Union Territory	Persons	Per cent of India's Pop	Decadal growth rate	Sex ratio (females per 1000 males)
1	2	3	4	5	6
	INDIA	**1,210,193,422**	**100.00**	**17.64**	**940**
	A. Pop 10 M +				
1	Uttar Pradesh	199,581,477	16.49	20.09	908
2	Maharashtra	112,372,972	9.29	15.99	925
3	Bihar	103,804,637	8.58	25.07	916
4	West Bengal	91,347,736	7.55	13.93	947
5	Andhra Pradesh	84,665,533	7.00	11.1	992
6	Madhya Pradesh	72,597,565	6.00	20.3	930
7	Tamil Nadu	72,138,958	5.96	15.6	995
8	Rajasthan	68,621,012	5.67	21.44	926
9	Karnataka	61,130,704	5.05	15.67	968
10	Gujarat	60,383,628	4.99	19.17	918
11	Orissa	41,947,358	3.47	13.97	978
12	Kerala	33,387,677	2.76	4.86	1,084
13	Jharkhand	32,966,238	2.72	22.34	947
14	Assam	31,169,272	2.58	16.93	954
15	Punjab	27,704,236	2.29	13.73	893
16	Chhattisgarh	25,540,196	2.11	22.59	991
17	Haryana	25,353,081	2.09	19.9	877
18	NCT of Delhi	16,753,235	1.38	20.96	866
19	Jammu & Kashmir	12,548,926	1.04	23.71	883
20	Uttarakhand	10,116,752	0.84	19.17	963
	Sub Total	1,184,131,193	**97.85**		
	B. Pop 1-10 M				
1	Himachal Pradesh	6,856,509	0.57	12.81	974
2	Tripura	3,671,032	0.30	14.75	961
3	Meghalaya	2,964,007	0.24	27.82	986
4	Manipur	2,721,756	0.22	18.65	987
5	Nagaland	1,980,602	0.16	-0.47	931
6	Goa	1,457,723	0.12	8.17	968
7	Arunachal Pradesh	1,382,611	0.11	25.92	920
8	Puducherry UT	1,244,464	0.10	27.72	1,038
9	Mizoram	1,091,014	0.09	22.78	975
10	Chandigarh UT	1,054,686	0.09	17.1	818
	Sub Total	24,424,404	**2.02**		
	C. Pop Below 1 M				
1	Sikkim	607,688	0.05	12.36	889
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island UT	379,944	0.03	6.68	878
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT	342,853	0.03	55.5	775
4	Daman & Diu UT	242,911	0.02	53.54	618
5	Lakshadweep UT	64,429	0.01	6.23	946
	Sub Total	1,637,825	0.14		

Literacy Rate

The literacy rate is calculated for the population above 7 years. I attach more importance to the female literacy rate than the overall literacy rate. Table 2 gives the details.

Table 2. Literacy Rate by sex, 2011 (per cent)

S. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Persons	Males	Females
	INDIA	**74.0**	**82.1**	**65.5**
	A. Pop 10 M +			
1	Kerala	93.9	96.0	92.0
2	NCT of Delhi UT	86.3	91.0	80.9
3	Maharashtra	82.9	89.8	75.5
4	Tamil Nadu	80.3	86.8	73.9
5	Uttarakhand	79.6	88.3	70.7
6	Gujarat	79.3	87.2	70.7
7	West Bengal	77.1	82.7	71.2
8	Punjab	76.7	81.5	71.3
9	Haryana	76.6	85.4	66.8
10	Andhra Pradesh	75.6	75.6	59.7
11	Karnataka	75.6	82.9	68.1
12	Orissa	73.5	82.4	64.4
13	Assam	73.2	78.8	67.3
14	Chhattisgarh	71.0	81.5	60.6
15	Madhya Pradesh	70.6	80.5	60.0
16	Uttar Pradesh	69.7	79.2	59.3
17	Jammu & Kashmir	68.7	78.3	58.0
18	Jharkhand	67.6	78.5	56.2
19	Rajasthan	67.1	80.5	52.7
20	Bihar	63.8	73.4	53.3
	B. Pop 1-10 M			
21	Mizoram	91.6	93.7	89.4
22	Tripura	87.8	92.2	83.2
23	Goa	87.4	92.8	81.8
24	Puducherry UT	86.6	92.1	81.2
25	Chandigarh UT	86.4	90.5	81.4
26	Himachal Pradesh	83.8	90.8	76.6
27	Nagaland	80.1	83.3	76.7
28	Manipur	79.9	86.5	73.2
29	Meghalaya	75.5	77.2	73.8
30	Arunachal Pradesh	67.0	73.7	59.6
	C. Pop Below 1 M			
31	Lakshadweep UT	92.3	96.1	88.3
32	Daman & Diu UT	87.1	91.5	79.6
33	Andaman & Nicobar Islands UT	86.3	90.1	81.8
34	Sikkim	82.2	87.3	76.4
35	Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT	77.7	86.5	65.9

Note: The states/UTs are arranged in order of the overall literacy rate – highest to the lowest.

Discussion

- Among Group A states, the size of population varies from almost 200 million in Uttar Pradesh to 10 million in Uttarakhand.
- This implies that U.P. has 16.5 per cent of India's population while Uttarakhand which is an off-shoot of U.P. claims only 0.8 per cent.
- There are wide variations in the decadal growth rate of population. Bihar has a growth rate of 25.1 per cent during 2001-11 in the Group A states while the growth rate in Kerala is only 4.9 per cent.
- Among Group B states, Meghalaya has the highest growth rate (27 %) while Nagaland has a negative growth rate (-0.5%). This is because the 2001 census was messed up. Excluding Nagaland, the lowest growth rate was is Goa (8.2%).
- Among Group C states, the highest growth rate was in Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT (55.5%) while the lowest growth rate was in Lakshadweep UT (6.2%).
- The figures show the incredible demographic diversity of India. It follows therefore that there cannot be **one population policy** for the whole country. Population policies have to be state and region specific.
- The same story is repeated when we take a good look at literacy figures. Kerala has the highest literacy rate, both for males (96%) and females (92%). At the other end is Bihar where the male literacy rate is 73% while the female literacy rate is 53%. It means that almost half of the female population is illiterate. What education policy can we then formulate for the whole country? The policy must be state and region-specific.

Worsening Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years)

The Child Sex Ratio stands for the number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0-6 years.

The most disturbing aspect of 2011 census data by far is the growing imbalance between the sexes in the youngest age group (0-6) which is indicative of female foeticide. In short, the girl child is not wanted and therefore not allowed to be born, thanks to the use of modern medical technology.

I believe that the child sex ratio (CSR) for the age group 0-6 is **not** the best way of finding out what is happening to the girl child. A better method will be to calculate the number of girls per 1000 boys **at birth**. But this assumes a good system of registration of births and deaths. In spite of the legal provision for compulsory registration of births, very few people care to register births of children, especially of girls. This is because some people think that if there is a government record of their sons, whatever the property they have will be passed on to their sons, which is a mistaken notion.

The CSR has continuously declined from 976 in 1961 to 914 in 2011. It should certainly be a cause for concern to our leaders of society and the government (see Table 3 and bar chart).

Table 3. Decline in child sex ratio (0-6 years), 1961-2011

Year	Child sex ratio	Variation (points)
1961	976	-
1971	964	-12
1981	962	-2
1991	945	-17
2001	927	-18
2011	914	-13

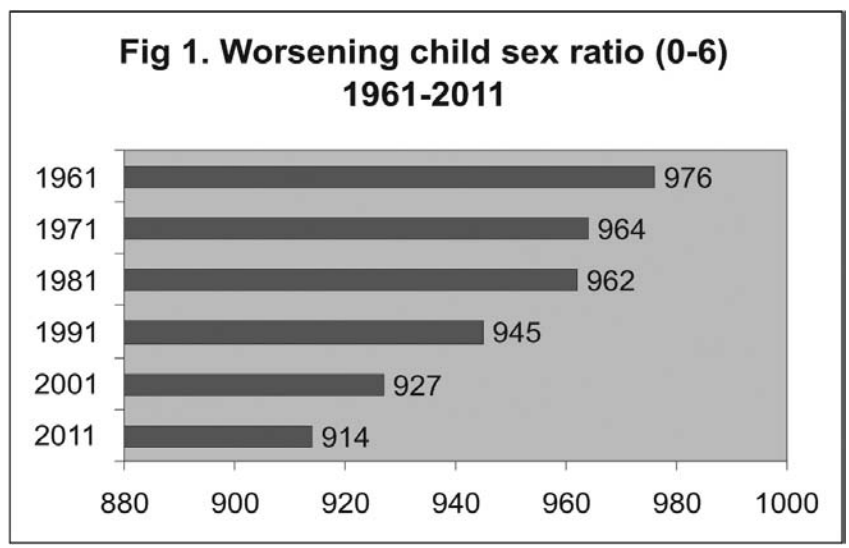


Table 4 gives the CSR in 20 states with population of 10 million and over.

Table 4. Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in Bigger States, 2011 (girls per 1,000 boys in the age group 0-6 years)

Rank	India/State/ Union Territory UT	CSR 2001	CSR 2011	Variation
	INDIA	**927**	**914**	**-13**
	Pop 10 M +			
1	Haryana	819	830	+11
2	Punjab	798	846	+48
3	Jammu & Kashmir	941	859	-82
4	NCT of Delhi UT	868	866	-2
5	Maharashtra	913	883	-30
6	Rajasthan	909	883	-26
7	Gujarat	883	886	+3
8	Uttarakhand	908	886	-22
9	Uttar Pradesh	916	899	-17
10	Madhya Pradesh	932	912	-20
11	Bihar	942	933	-9
12	Orissa	953	934	-19
13	Andhra Pradesh	961	943	-18
14	Karnataka	946	943	-3
15	Jharkhand	965	943	-22
16	Tamil Nadu	942	946	+4
17	West Bengal	960	950	-10
18	Assam	965	957	-8
19	Kerala	960	959	-1
20	Chhattisgarh	975	964	-11

Note: The rank is in order of the lowest to the highest CSR in 2011.

The figures for variation in CSR are very perplexing. Out of the 20 big states, only in 4 states the CSR has increased. The greatest surprise is the jump by 48 points in Punjab and 11 points in Haryana, states which are notorious for female foeticide. This calls for evaluation of census data and also field work in Punjab and Haryana in particular. My field work in these states does not confirm that the rise in CSR is real.

It is significant that in the urbanised state of Maharashtra, the decline in CSR is of the order of 30 points. Has the urban middle class taken to family planning? On the other hand, in the predominantly rural state of Rajasthan, the decline is high: 26 points. It seems that the rural masses do not want girls. So we have an odd situation where the urban middle class does not want daughters and the rural masses also do not want daughters.

I have an explanation for this which is bound to be controversial. Nevertheless let me put forward my viewpoint. We have had over 50 years of government propaganda about the need for a small family. This has certainly raised the awareness about the small family norm all over India. By small family, earlier one meant 2 or 3 children but over the years the acceptable number came down to 2 children.

For parents there are 3 possibilities: (i) 2 sons only, (ii) 2 daughters only and (iii) 1 son and 1 daughter. The second scenario is the worst. The cost of dowry and marriage has gone up. We are becoming increasingly a consumerist society. Greed has overtaken need. One cannot order a small family with only 2 sons or for that matter, 1 son and 1 daughter, unless one takes recourse to medical intervention or in simple language, finding out the sex of the unborn child and taking to abortion if it is a female child. The government enacted the PCPNDT Act quite sometime back, which prohibits such medical intervention but it is well known that its implementation is very poor. Will the CSR go down further in next census of 2021? ❑

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YE-80/2011

Family Planning : The Need to Reposition in context of Maternal and Child Health

Poonam Muttreja



Reduction of population growth in EAG states are essential to improve the socio-economic condition of the population and attainment of MDGs

WITH THE Census of India 2011 reporting good news on the population growth front, there is an urgent need for the XII Five Year Plan to further accelerate the stabilization of India's population by repositioning family planning within the broader framework of reproductive health and primary health care, delaying age at marriage and motherhood, spacing births and expanding options for reproductive health.

The good news

India has a long history of addressing the population question. Beginning with the launch of the largely clinic-based National Family Planning Programme in 1952, the latest National Population Policy (NPP) of 2000 is much more embedded in the framework of women's empowerment and reproductive rights. An important landmark in the evolution of India's population policy was the establishment in 1966 of a full fledged Department of Family Planning within the Ministry of Health. However, the global obsession at that time with numbers and targets triggered by the pessimistic forecasts of a 'population explosion' by the Club of Rome and others had an adverse impact on India's family planning programme. The programme became 'centrally sponsored', financial incentives were introduced for sterilization acceptors; and sterilization was made target-oriented. The compulsory and coercive nature of the programme during 1975 and 1976 made it highly unpopular. An effort was made to correct the situation in 1977 beginning with the rechristening of the Department of Family Planning as the Department of Family Welfare and advocating

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voluntary acceptance of contraceptive targets without any coercion. Progress was however slow during the 1980s. The 1990s witnessed several shifts in policy especially after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) when the focus shifted to a target-free community based approach. India's NPP 2000 states in no uncertain terms that stabilizing population is not merely a question of making reproductive health services available, accessible and affordable, but also increasing the coverage and outreach of primary and secondary education, extending basic amenities like sanitation, safe drinking water, housing and empowering women with enhanced access to education and employment.

India's sustained efforts over the years to achieve population stabilization are finally beginning to yield the desired results. Preliminary results from the Census of India 2011 reveal several positive trends in India's population growth:

- 2001-2011 is the first decade (with the exception of 1911-1921) when the absolute increase in population over the ten-year period has been less than in the previous decade.
- The percentage decadal growth during 2001-2011 has recorded the sharpest decline since Independence.
- The average exponential growth rate for 2001-2011 has declined to 1.64 per cent – down from 1.97 per cent for 1991-2001.
- Fifteen states and Union Territories have grown by less than 1.5 per cent per annum between 2001-2011 as against only four states during the previous decade.
- The growth rate of population has fallen significantly, perhaps for the first time, in the eight Empowered Action Group (EAG) states (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) that have traditionally reported higher than average rates of fertility and population growth.
- The percentage growth rates of the six most populous states - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh – have all fallen during 2001-2011 compared to 1991-2001.

Despite the many achievements on the population front, many worry, somewhat unnecessarily, about the 'serious problem of rising numbers' and the lack of conviction to contain or stabilize India's population. While it is theoretically accepted that family planning cannot be treated as a vertical program, in practice it continues to be so with very little attention to quality of care. Despite clear evidence that population momentum is the greatest driver of population growth in India, there is continued reliance on the old belief that 'control' approaches with targets, incentives, and disincentives work. There are some who disregard the evidence and advocate for strict population control strategies. Some even suggest that India should adopt China's one-child policy, ignoring the overflowing evidence on the negative consequences that China confronts today. However, things are changing not only because of the focus of major international donors but also because of the domestic climate, where the Government of India recently restarted the National Commission on Population (NCP) after a five year gap, with the specific aim of revisiting and repositioning family planning in India.The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, ShriGulamNabi Azad, has called for repositioning family planning. What does this entail?

Repositioning family planning

Discussions on repositioning family planning need to be strongly grounded in the principles of human rights (that respect the dignity of human lives) and ethics (that offer a normative basis for ensuring that rights are not violated). Unfortunately, understanding of the policy and programmatic implications of these two perspectives remains poor. The inclusion of the key principles of a rights based approach viz accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, and non-discrimination into all family planning strategies will ensure

that 'people' are at the centre of it all. A rights-based approach in the context of Maternal and Child Health will not only provide a conceptual framework but will also contribute directly to the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) i.e. reducing child mortality (MDG 4) and improving maternal health (MDG 5). Ultimately, women should be able to exercise their right to participate in decision-making processes, including those affecting their sexual and reproductive health, family planning, contraception, pregnancy, childbirth, and in addressing unsafe abortion.

Experience from across the world suggests that family planning can prevent as many as one in every three maternal deaths by enabling women to delay motherhood, space births, avoid unintended pregnancies and abortions, and stop childbearing when they have reached their desired family size.

Repositioning family planning is directly linked with advancing family planning on national, state, and community agendas, with a renewed emphasis on enhancing the visibility, availability, and quality of services provided for increased contraceptive use and healthy timing and spacing of births, and ultimately, improved quality of life. At the national level, policymakers, donors, scientists, and business leaders ought to create or support budget line items dedicated to family planning, enact supportive family planning laws and policies, participate in multi-sectoral partnerships, and publicly demonstrate their support for family planning. At the local level, it means that community leaders should educate and mobilize families, providers should offer reproductive health and family planning counselling and referral with skill, enthusiasm, and consistency, and informed clients should act effectively on their desire to delay, space or limit childbearing.

Core interventions

Repositioning family planning calls for addressing the three drivers of population growth:

Population momentum: Accounts for approximately two-thirds of the projected population increase. It can be slowed down mainly by delaying age at marriage and childbearing in women. A shocking 47.4% of Indian women aged 20-24 years were married by the age of 18; the proportion was 69% in Bihar and 63.2% in Jharkhand. Early marriage is associated with early and repeated pregnancies, and contributes to maternal and infant morbidity and mortality greatly compromising both women's and children's health.

Unmet need is a disconnect between a woman's desired fertility and her access to family planning services. It is expected to contribute to approximately 20% of projected population growth. It is as high as 22.8% in Bihar and 23.1% in Jharkhand. Interestingly, even though 83% of women with two or more children do not want anymore children, only 48.5% use modern family planning methods. Unmet need can be addressed by increasing the supply of quality family planning services and contraceptives.

High desired fertility*:* This is caused by several factors, including parents giving birth to more children than they actually want to compensate for high rates of infant mortality; the low status of women, the limited voice that women have in family and fertility decisions as well as a strong preference for sons. The mounting pressures of modern society to have a small family combined with a strong preference for sons often leads to female feticide or sex selective abortion. Both high desired fertility and population momentum can be addressed by interventions that stimulate a demand for contraception, such as interventions that promote social norms around small families, delayed age at marriage, and delayed childbirth.

Repositioning family planning in the context of maternal and child health can be made possible only when the three drivers of population growth are addressed effectively and an attempt is made to shift ('reposition') the discourse from 'population control' to 'population stabilization.' This can be achieved by focusing on five key focus areas: delaying age at marriage; delaying age at first pregnancy; promoting spacing between births; improving quality of care of family planning

and reproductive health (RH) programs; and prevention of sex selection.

A critical starting point is to focus on women and children, and to ensure that all children have access to quality health care; and adolescents and women have additional access to quality reproductive health care. A woman's health directly influences the health and development of her child. A vicious cycle of malnutrition is created if nutrition before and during pregnancy is not taken care of. A stunted child becomes a small mother, a small mother gives birth to a small baby, small babies grow less, and girls who grow less become small mothers, and the vicious cycle continues.

Society and policy makers need to view health, and particularly reproductive health, within the holistic life cycle approach. The discrimination against girls and women that begins in infancy determines the trajectory of their lives. Neglect of education and appropriate health care arises in childhood and adolescence. These continue to be issues in the reproductive years, along with family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive tract infections, adequate nutrition and care in pregnancy, and the social status of women and concerns about cervical and breast cancer. Unwanted pregnancies may lead to unsafe abortions, child neglect, malnutrition, disease, and social problems. This implies ensuring effective contraceptive advice and availability as young people approach puberty and during their reproductive years.

Increased public dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders, developed or modified relevant policy, better and more efficient service provision and program implementation and families taking control of decision making around their health should be the envisaged outputs.

At the national level population stabilization should be viewed from the population momentum perspective, looking in particular at delaying the age of marriage and thereby of childbearing. At the state level unmet need and high desired fertility should be addressed through increasing people's access to quality family planning services as well as by investing in education and health services which would impact social norms and awareness around the benefits of smaller families. And at the community level, individuals, families (including male members), and members of the larger community should engage actively in the enhancement of their health as well as in community monitoring of services, as it is recognized that lack of proper involvement of local communities in the implementation of programs has been identified as a principal reason for the low accountability in the system.

Looking ahead

Working with young people is critical as India looks ahead to reposition family planning and make the most of the demographic advantage of having a young population that it enjoys. It is all the more important to focus on young people as almost one-third of India's population is between the ages of 10-24 years. The need for effective family planning has never been greater than it is today, as the largest group of people in Indian history move through their reproductive years. Access to quality family planning is not only a human right, it is critical to individual and family health and well-being, and to the country's economic development.

Urgently needed are advocacy initiatives that concentrate on viewing health and particularly reproductive health within the holistic life cycle approach; call for an end to discrimination against girls and women; emphasize importance of education and appropriate health care in childhood and adolescence; campaign against unwanted pregnancies as they lead to unsafe abortions; that address child neglect, malnutrition, disease, and social problems; give effective contraceptive advice and promote improved services especially better quality and access to timely and responsive health services.

Ultimately it is only by repositioning family planning within a rights based framework can India ensure planned and healthier families, a positive outcome for every pregnancy, and most importantly, that every child is a wanted as well as a healthy child. ❑

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YE-82/2011

India's 15th Population Census: Some Key Findings

Leela Visaria



The further decline in child sex ratio, in spite of 15 years of ban on sex determination test, makes us somber with realization that social legislations serve a purpose only up to a point

THE FIRST Census in India, commonly referred to as 1872 Census, was conducted over five years between 1867 and 1872, and thus was not synchronous. The exercise was started by the British who wanted to know the size, composition and characteristics of population in their colonies but it was not conducted over the entire territory controlled by the British. The subsequent Censuses were synchronous and gradually were canvassed throughout the country. Despite political and other problems, Censuses in India have continued to be conducted every 10 years.

After Independence, Parliament passed the Census Act of 1948 and created a post of Census Commissioner. Earlier, the whole operation used to be temporarily set up for 2-3 years and wound up after the census was conducted and results printed. The Act empowered census officers to ask certain questions and made answering them obligatory for citizens. Information collected is treated as confidential and can be used only for statistical purposes; it cannot be used as evidence in a court of law.

Census is not only a head count. Besides the size of the total population, the Census in India collects and publishes information on various characteristics of the population, such as, age and sex distribution, social and cultural factors such as religion, literacy, languages known, migration and economic activities of the people. Besides, during housing Census conducted a year before the population count, information is also collected on type of housing, amenities and assets possessed by households. Analysis of the data collected from several Censuses provide a unique opportunity to understand the dynamics of and trends in various facets of

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the diverse population of the country.

Among the developing countries, India is the only one with 15 decennial uninterrupted series of population counts. No other developing country has done this.

Further, India makes information on total population by sex for every state available within three to four weeks of reference date of census count. Until 1981, the data were compiled manually. Beginning with 1981, number of literate and illiterate males and females 7+ years of age are also available for all states and union territories within one month. With the computerization of the entire operation now, the 2011 Census promises to make all data available within 2 years. This achievement needs to be appreciated in view of the fact that most of the developed countries take years even to arrive at total population size of their countries after conducting the census.

Highlights of 2011 Census

Population size

According to the provisional population count released within four weeks of completing the Census, India's total population in 2011 was 1.21 billion, up from 1.03 billion in 2001, thus adding 181 million people in one decade. However, the 2001-2011 decadal growth rate of 17.6 %, compared to 21.5 recorded during 1991-2001, suggests slowing down of growth. Interestingly, the enumerated population size was larger than most projections, including that of the Registrar General's office that projected the 2011 population to be 1.19 billion. India is now expected to become the most populous country of the world by 2030 overtaking China sooner than earlier expected. India's population size is expected to stabilize at 1.8 billion around 2041.

Geographic Distribution

The state of Uttar Pradesh with 199.6 million people is India's most populous state accounting for 16.5% of country's population. Bihar (103.8) and Maharashtra (112.4) are other two states with more than 100 million people. Other large states are West Bengal with 91, Andhra Pradesh with 85, Madhya Pradesh with 73, and Tamil Nadu with 72 million people. Nearly 42.4% of Indians now live in formerly undivided Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; a proportion that has increased from 40% in 1991. Conversely, the proportion of Indians living in the four southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has decreased from 22.5% in 1991 to 20.8% in 2011, causing concerns about their representation in parliamentary democracy.

Rate of Population Growth

Among the major states, Bihar with 25.1% growth rate during 2001-2011is the fastest growing state. Decadal Growth rates have exceeded 20% in all the core north India states – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh (including Jharkhand and Chattisgarh). Kerala's growth rate during 2001-2011 of 4.9% is indicative of the state reaching stationary population in the next 10-20 years. Growth rate around 11-13% is reported by Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal and around 15-16 % by Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Southern states are the harbinger of population stabilization.

Literacy

India has witnessed remarkable progress in spread of literacy. Compared to barely 18 percent of India's population recorded as literate in the first Census after Independence, according to the 2011 Census, that proportion has gone up to 74 percent. The achievement among males has been from 27 to 82 percent in the 60 years. From less than one in 10 women counted as literate in 1951, today two out of three women are enumerated as literate (See Table 1).

Nationally, the gender gap in spread of literacy began to narrow first in1991 and the pace has accelerated. However, there are large state variations in the gender gap with Rajasthan reporting nearly 28 percentage point gap and other core North Indian states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand reporting a gap between male and female literacy rate of more than 20 percentage points.

Compared to 2001,in 2011 male literacy rate increased by 6 percentage points but female literacy increased by nearly 12 percentage points, which is viewed as a remarkable achievement. Some have attributed it to the success of

Table 1 Literacy Rate among men and women in India, 1951-2011				
Census Year	% Literate in 7+ population			Male-Female gap
	Males	Females	Persons	
1951	27.2	8.9	18.3	18.3
1961	40.4	15.4	28.3	25.0
1971	46.0	22.0	34.4	24.0
1981	56.4	29.8	43.6	26.6
1991	64.1	39.3	52.2	24.8
2001	75.3	53.7	64.8	21.6
2011	82.1	65.5	74.0	16.7

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, India's flagship programme launched in 2001-02 to universalise elementary education. Male literacy exceeds 75% throughout the country and exceeds 90% in Kerala and some of the smaller states. The achievement in female literacy in Bihar is noteworthy; from 33% in 2001, it has gone up to 53% or by 20 percentage points. The states causing concern as far as female literacy is concerned are Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh – both have reported 8 percentage point increase during 2001-2011 and both have less than 60% female literacy.

Sex Ratio of Population

The 'good news' is that female to male sex ratio of population has began to improve – from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001 to 940 in 2011. Yet, compared to what is observed elsewhere in most countries in the world, India's sex ratio is anomalous. The British Census commissioners also noted it and were quite puzzled. Quite systematically, they examined a number of factors to understand why there were fewer women in India compared to men in the total population. The possible reasons dwelt upon by them and by other noted population scientists were: under enumeration of women, more masculine sex ratio at birth compared to observed in other populations, higher mortality experienced by women compared to men due to epidemics (such as plague, malaria and influenza) or deficiency diseases, or due to neglect, premature cohabitation and unskillful midwifery. Except for the persistent survival disadvantage that women experienced from early infancy well into the reproductive period, evidence did not support any of the other factors.

The female to male sex ratio of population historically noted in the contiguous area of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, has improved between 2001 and 2011, but it is still below 900 women per 1000 men. On the other hand, sex ratio close to unity is recorded in the southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. This phenomenon observed since the beginning of the 20th Century has persisted even now.

Child Sex Ratio

Since 1981 Indian Censuses have made available data on population in the age group 0-6 by sex, as a by product of information on literacy rates which are calculated for 7+ population, enabling calculation of sex ratio of children in the age group 0-6. (Typically, age data are generated in five year age groups and thus most populations would provide data on children in the age group 0-4 and not 0-6.) The Census Commissioner's office has calculated sex ratio of children aged 0-6 from the previous Censuses of 1961 and 1971 also showing the trend over 50 years (See Table 2).

Table 2 Sex Ratio* of Population and of Children aged 0-6 Years in India, 1961-2011		
Census Year	Sex ratio of total population	Sex ratio of children aged 0-6 years
1961	941	976
1971	930	964
1981	934	962
1991	937	945
2001	933	927
2011	940	914

* Sex ratio is calculated as number of females per 1000 males.

As evident in Table 2, the child sex ratio has steadily declined from 976 in 1961 to 927 in 2001 and further to 914 in 2011. This phenomenon has drawn world wide attention and is largely attributed to the increasing practice of sex detection and selectively aborting female foetuses. Between 2001 and 2011, child sex ratio fell in practically the whole country, giving credence to a belief that the practice of female selective abortion is spreading to parts of the country, where it was not noted earlier. Child sex ratio improved in 2011 from the level in 2001 in Himachal Pradesh,

Haryana, Punjab and marginally in Gujarat; the states where it was below 850. In 2011 in these states, there are still less than 900 girls for 1000 boys.

In a patriarchal Indian society son preference is known to have existed for centuries and persists even today. According to the most recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted during 2005-06, nearly a quarter of women would prefer more sons than daughters but hardly any would desire more daughters than sons. Further, in depth analysis of the NFHS data have shown that when the couple wants to limit the family size to two or three children only, if the first child is a daughter, the probability of determining the sex of the second child and aborting the foetus if it is of a girl, is quite high. Thus, while the small family norm has become quite acceptable, son preference persists.

Widespread availability and use of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex determination led to PNDT (Pre-Natal diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of misuse) Act) in 1994 banning their use for determining the sex of foetus or revealing it to the parents. The Act was amended and made more stringent in 2003 by allowing appropriate authorities even at the district level to take legal action against the use of sex selection technique by any person at any place. Despite the Act and the widespread campaign promoting 'save the girl child' messages, decline in child sex ratio has continued leading to a concern that neither the implementation of the Act nor the campaign messages have been very effective.

However, it is important to recognize that besides female selective abortion, girls in Indian have for many decades continued to experience higher mortality compared to boys. Even in recent years, according to the 2008 Sample Registration System data, death rate among girls aged 1-4 years was nearly 40% higher compared to boys. If the sex differentials in mortality continue favouring boys, the deficit of girls would increase over time. When higher female child mortality is coupled with sex selection and female selective abortion, the deficit of girls would indeed increase at a faster pace.

Decline in Child Population

The 2011 Census is the first one in many decades which counted less absolute number of children in the 0-6 age group. Compared to 2001 Census count of 164 million children, there were 159 million children in 2011, or there were 5 million fewer children in India. This is evident in the share of children in the total population, which declined from 16 percent in 2001 to 13.1 percent in 2011. Among the major states, the only exceptions were Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir, which reported some absolute increase in their child population. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, children aged 0-6 constitute less than 10 percent of the population but in Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, children's share in the total population is almost 18 percent. The decline in child population reflects decline in fertility; total fertility rate in India has come down from an average of 3.1 children born per woman in 2001 to 2.7 in 2009.

For population experts, the provisional findings from the 2011 Census have few surprises. Yet, compared to most projections of the population size, the count was higher and the time when and size at which population would stabilize had to be revised. Also, it implied that India will overtake China by 2030 rather than a decade or so later. Yet, there is no escape from this even though planners, policy makers and programme managers express panic from time to time and attribute India's social and economic problems to its size and growth rate. The family-size preferences of young people now entering the childbearing ages even in North India states are significantly lower than the preferences reported by their parents at the same stage in life. Therefore, good quality uninterrupted family planning and reproductive health services are provided; there is no reason to believe that their preferences and aspirations will not be translated into actual practice.

The further decline in child sex ratio, in spite of 15 years of ban on sex determination test, makes us somber with realization that social legislation serves a purpose only up to a point or that fear of punishment does not always act as a deterrent. It is time we understand and address the cultural and social factors that undervalue girls. Bringing about behavioural change is a tough but a necessary assignment. ❑

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YE-76/2011

Child Sex Ratios in India: The Emerging Pattern

Saraswati Raju



The most immediate response has to be against the nexus between the medical fraternity, health workers and others in the system that makes sex-selective abortion an easy task

IT WAS interesting to watch the first reactions to 2011 Census result. The declining growth rate of population and the rising literacy rate were enough reasons for jubilation. It was a slightly delayed sinking of the fact that India is still averse to daughters being born, with the provisional figures for the age-group 0-6 showing an all time low sex ratio in 2011. Declining number of girls vis-à-vis boys – the child sex ratio (CSR) had primarily caught the attention across the country during the last two decades, particularly since 1991 census that has published the population under 7 for the first time. Ironically it was to bring the literacy counts at par with the international practices. However, the data showed that at the national level there were 945 girls to 1000 boys, five points short of generally accepted child sex ratio of 950 girls per 1000 boys. The 2001 census not only saw a sharp decline of 18 points at the national level with child sex ratio of 927, some pockets of the country particularly, the north-west had recorded CSR of 850 and below with some of the prosperous states such as Punjab (-77), Haryana (-60), and Gujarat (-45) occupying the top positions in terms of declining number of girls over the decade. The urbanised Delhi (-47) and Chandigarh (- 54) were no better (Table 1).

In initial stages, selective undercount of girls, fewer abortions and retention of male foetuses with improved reproductive health-care facilities and mortality differentials were often cited as the reasons for fewer numbers of girls as compared to boys in the population although

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Table 1 Child Sex Ratio (CSR) 1991, 2001 and 2011*					
States	**1991***	**2001**	**2011**	**Difference 2001-1991**	**Difference 2011-2001**
INDIA	945	927	914	-18	-13
Andhra Pradesh	975	961	943	-14	-18
Arunachal Pradesh	982	964	960	-18	-4
Assam	975	965	957	-10	-8
Bihar	953	942	933	-11	-9
Chhattisgarh	984	975	964	-9	-11
Delhi	915	868	866	-47	-2
Goa	964	938	920	-26	-18
Gujarat	928	883	886	-45	+ 3
Haryana	879	819	830	-60	+11
Himachal Pradesh	951	896	906	-55	+10
Jammu & Kashmir	Not Available	941	859	---	-82
Jharkhand	979	965	943	-14	-22
Karnataka	960	946	943	-14	-3
Kerala	958	960	959	2	-1
Madhya Pradesh	941	932	912	-9	-20
Maharashtra	946	913	883	-33	-30
Manipur	974	957	934	-17	-23
Meghalaya	986	973	970	-13	-3
Mizoram	969	964	971	-5	+7
Nagaland	993	964	944	-29	-20
Orissa	967	953	934	-14	-19
Punjab	875	798	846	-77	+ 48
Rajasthan	916	909	883	-7	-26
Sikkim	965	963	944	-2	-19
Tamil Nadu	948	942	946	-6	+4
Tripura	967	966	953	-1	-13
Uttarakhand	949	908	886	-41	-22
Uttar Pradesh	927	916	899	-11	-17
West Bengal	967	960	950	-7	-10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	973	957	966	-16	+9
Chandigarh	899	845	867	-54	+22
Daman & Diu	958	926	909	-32	-17
Dadra & N. Haveli	1013	979	924	-34	-55
Lakshadweep	941	959	908	+18	-51
Puducherry	963	967	965	+ 4	-2

Source: Population Foundation of India, 2006
Census of India, 2001
2011* (Provisional Population Tables)

the CSRs were becoming too skewed in favour of boys to be explained by these factors. Now, the widespread awareness about the availability of and access to the technology that makes it possible to detect the sex of the unborn child (amniocentesis) is seen as a major contributing factor having an unbalancing impact on the sex ratios at birth (SRB) which eventually reflect in CSRs.

As pointed out by John (2011), early 1980s had begun to see a few campaigns against such practices for sex selection in Maharashtra, Delhi and Punjab although there was little public support for them. In contrast, the present decade is marked by widespread concern for declining CSRs across a variety of constituencies including scholars, activists, civil society members and policy makers. Post several strictures including policy briefs and attempts at stricter implementation of PNDT (the Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, the 2011 Census figures were eagerly awaited although there were apprehensions about any turnaround.

Although the number of girls continues to decline, the 2011 Census shows a somewhat slowing of the process – the decline now is by 13 points. Moreover, the worst affected states in 2001 – Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab along with Delhi and Chandigarh have improved their CSR in 2011. That said, not only a majority of districts in Haryana and Punjab continue to remain in the dubious category of CSR of 850 and below, the most urbanised districts of Faridabad and Gurgaon in Haryana join the rank. More importantly, several districts in Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are now showing worsening CSRs (Table 2). In a nutshell, while the old pattern of dismal CSR is almost stagnant or show some reversal in the CSRs over the decades, there are newer areas where CSRs are falling with alarming alacrity. It is no longer specific communities or regions that are characterised by low CSRs.

SRB is conventionally expressed as number of male births per 100 female births; the birth of 105 boys to 100 girls is generally accepted as normal. In India, the ratio has risen considerably in the recent past. As per the data in the Sample Registration System (SRS), SRB in the 1980s were generally close to 110. As of three years average for 2005-2007, the SRB at the national level was 111 boys to 100 girls as per the SRS. Data and indirect estimates from different sources such as Census, SRS and National Family Health Surveys differ on SRB, but there is a general consensus that the SRB has progressively become more masculine in the early 1990s, declined somewhat and risen again after 2000. The average conceals a large regional variation – As Kulkarni points out, for the same reference years, the SRB varies from 104.4 in Kerala to 119.5 in Punjab. In general, the north-western part of India always had higher SRBs as compared to other parts of India. Rising SRBs are relatively more recent phenomena in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir (Kulkarni 2010). Although southern states are relatively better off, it can be seen that the north-south differentials are being rapidly obliterated (Maps 1 and 2).

The declining CSR cut across a vast expanse of rich and poor states alike – Punjab, Haryana on one end and Andhra Pradesh on the other are cases in point. Although the net outcome has been a decline in CSRs, the processes leading to it differ. An earlier study of five northern states of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh shows that while the more prosperous states such as Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh manage to regulate the sex-composition of their children primarily through sex-selective abortions as reflected through high SRBs, in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, it is through post-birth neglect of girls having a bearing on gender differentials in mortality rates coupled with the growing practice of sex selection (John et al 2008).

The dramatic spread of districts having CSRs blow 950 is not easy to explain in the absence of more detailed information such as rural-urban break-up, but 2011 Census figures do throw up a few leads to suggest an existing link between affluence and 'modern' urbanised contexts with more

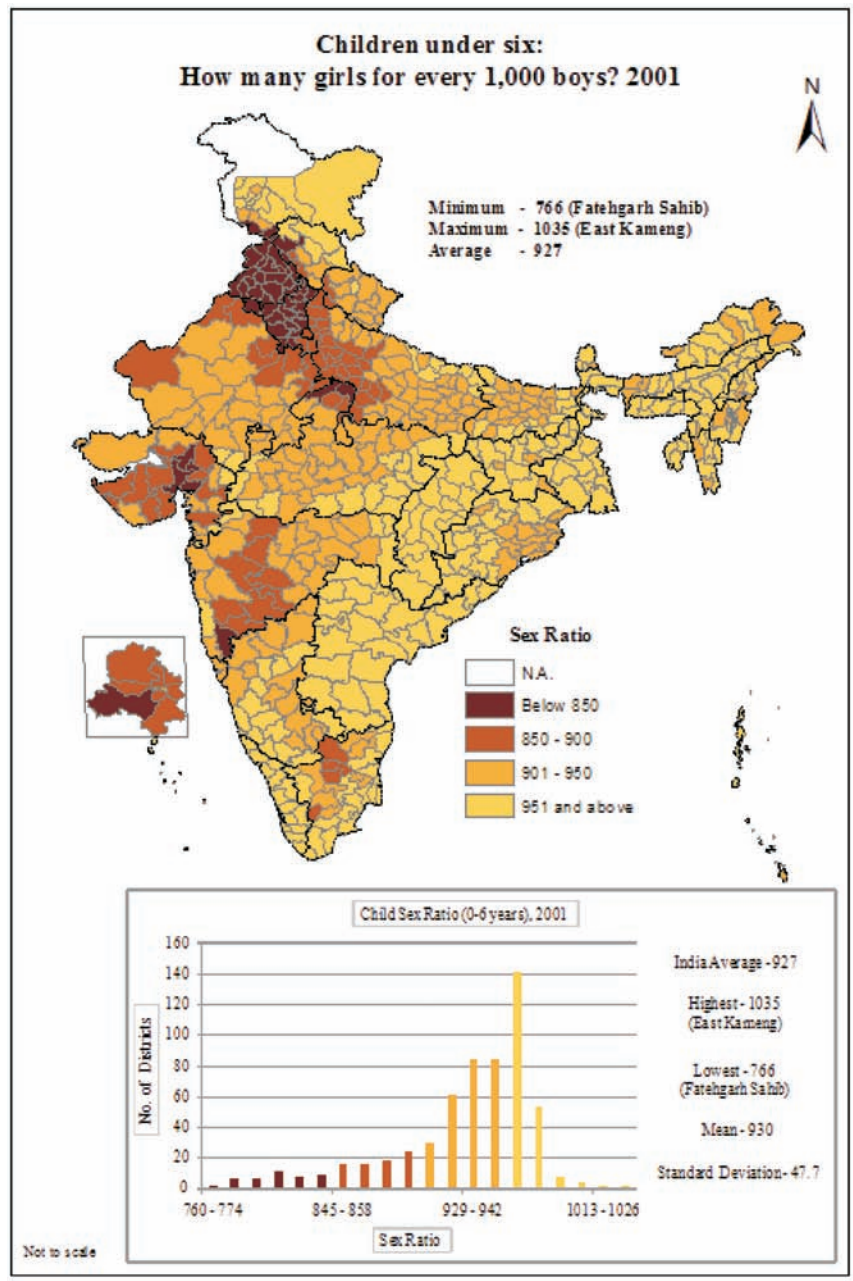
Table 2 An Overview of Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in 2001 and 2011, States and Districts				
	< 850 in 2001 and 2011	**< 850 in 2001 ≥850 in 2011**	**>850 in 2001 ≤850 in 2011**	**New Districts in 2011**
Arunachal Pradesh				Kurung Kumey (978) Lower Dibang Valley (945), Anjaw (954)
Assam				Chirang (958), Kamrup Metropolitan (994), Baksa (962), Udalgiri (965)
Bihar				Arwal (941)
Chandigarh		Chandigarh		
Chhattisgarh				Narayanpur (975), Bijapur (978)
NCT of Delhi	South West Delhi			
Gujarat	Mahesana, Gandhinagar		Surat	Tapi (944)
Haryana	Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Karnal, Panipat, Sonipat, Jind, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Mahendragarh, Rewari	Panchkula, Sirsa	Gurgaon Faridabad	Now split in Gurgaon (826), Mewat (903) Now split in Faridabad (842), Palwal (862)
Himachal Pradesh		Kangra, Una		
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu, Kathua		Badgam, Anantnag, Rajouri	Bandipore (893), Ganderbal (863) Shupiyan (883), Kulgam (882), Ramban (931), Kishtwar (922), Reasi (921), Samba (787)
Jharkhand				Latehar (964), Ramgarh (926), Jamtara (948), Khunti (951), Simdega (975), Saraikela-Kharsawan (937)
Karnataka				Yadgir (942), Chikkaballapura (945) Ramanagara (960)
Madhya Pradesh	Morena, Bhind		Gwalior	Ashoknagar (914), Anuppur (943), Singrauli (921), Alirajpur (971) Burhanpur (921)
Maharashtra	Kolhapur		Jalgaon, Buldana, Jalna, Aurangabad, Ahmadnagar, Bid	
Punjab	Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Firozpur, Muktsar, Mansa, Sangrur, Patiala	Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Nawanshahr, Hoshiarpur, Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Moga, Faridkot, Bathinda		Tarn Taran (819), Barnala (847) Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (842)
Rajasthan			Jhunjhunun, Karauli, Sikar	Pratapgarh (926)
Tamil Nadu				Krishnagiri (924), Tiruppur (951)
Uttar Pradesh			Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Agra	Kanshi Ram Nagar (888)
West Bengal				Now split in Paschim Medinipur (952) Purba Medinipur (938)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands				Now split in North & Middle Andaman District (977), South Andaman District (961)
States without any change in district boundary and where none of the districts lies below 850 - Andhra Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura				
States without district level data in 2011- Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Uttarakhand				

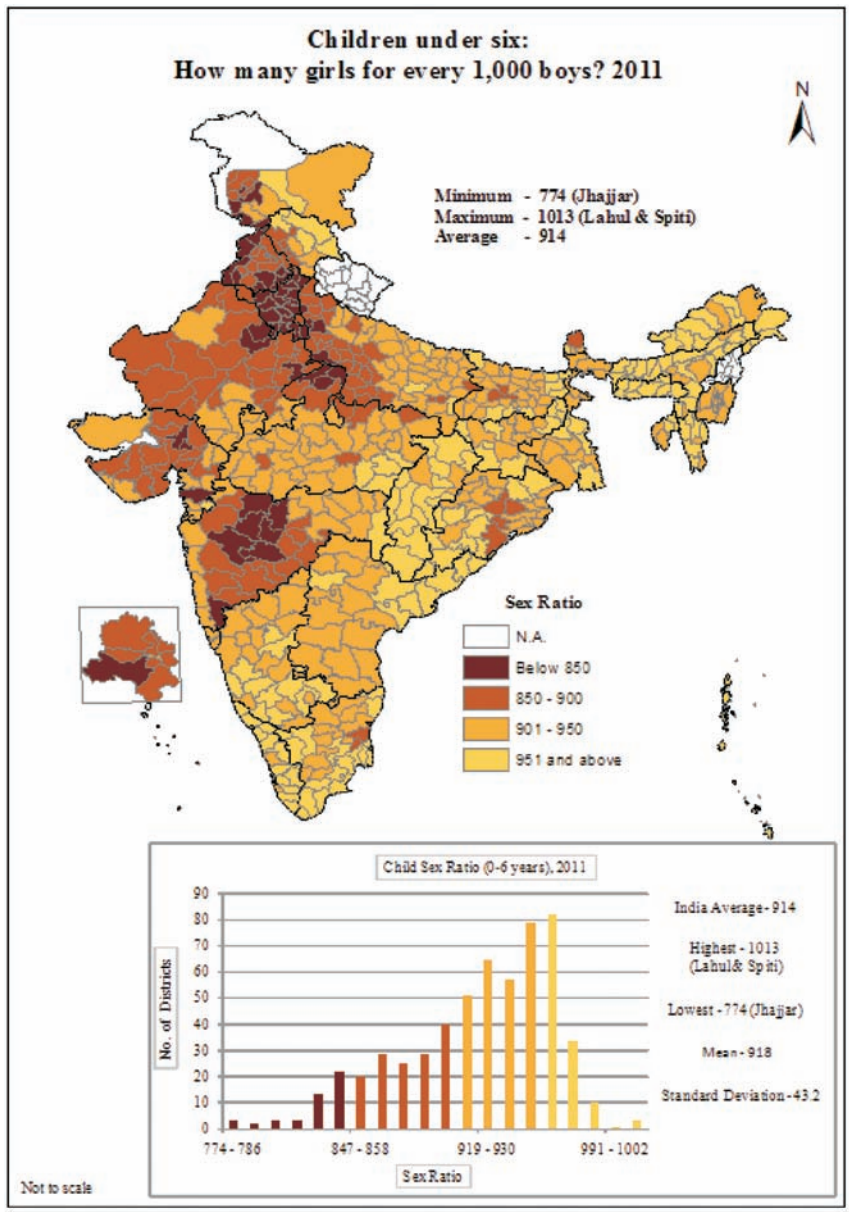
Note: About 47 districts were newly created in 2011. About 24 districts - 8 from Jammu and Kashmir, 1 from Bihar, 3 from Arunachal Pradesh, 3 from Assam, 1 from West Bengal, 2 from Chhattisgarh, 1 from Gujarat and 3 from Karnataka, 1 from Tamil Nadu 1 from Andaman and Nicobar Island were added to their respective districts to adjust the Chid Sex Ratio of 2011 according to 2001. In cases where a new district has been carved out by including parts of several districts, data could not be made comparable. Such districts are not in the table. Even in cases where a single district is split, data could not be made comparable in the absence of absolute figures - such districts were dropped. Nagaland comprises 3 new districts, for which the 2011 census data are not available.

pronounced decline in CSRs. For example, the earlier Faridabad district (in 2001) is now split in Faridabad and Palwal out of which Faridabad – clearly the more advanced district of the two - has a CSR of 842 as compared to Palwal which has a CSR of 862. Similarly, Gurgaon now bifurcated in Gurgaon and Mewat has a much lower CSR of 826 as compared to Mewat with a CSR of 903. It would be of interest to see if such associations are visible elsewhere in other similarly split districts.

A complex and nuanced interplay of a variety of factors, some inadvertent fallout of developmental inputs, seem to have contributed to the prevailing situation. Earlier, couples could not intervene in the reproductive outcomes. In an environment with strong 'son preference', couples would continue to bear children until they got the desired numbers of male babies. Now that technology makes it possible to select the sex of unborn babies, desirable sex composition of children can be achieved without going into multiple pregnancies. The ideal composition is that of one son and one daughter – most families would stop at that. However, if the first two offspring are male babies, families do not feel the need for the third child, be it a boy or a girl albeit more so for girls.

Why such a 'choice' remains so gendered is an intriguing question. For one, the 'choice' is selectively exercised – the rationale comes from the 'small family norm' which has come to be associated with late modernity. Much has been said about the enabling environment and empowerment of women in terms of education, employment and financial independence and the interface of these parameters with autonomy and decision-making as well as their being equal partners in the development processes. And yet scores of studies have clearly shown that women's education or employment status do not automatically translate in their agency and freedom of choices. The concept of 'choice' itself is rather contrived – the so-called choice can be a matter of prolonged social conditioning





and socialising process whereby women themselves follow the age-old 'preference' for sons.

Although there are some success stories of collective actions in public domain where the existing socio-political milieu compel societal responses to gendered concerns to be politically correct and egalitarian, when it comes to the private realm of reproduction, the asymmetrical power relations within the household overtake the rhetoric of public discourse. That said, reproductive decisions are not independent of specific and overall contexts. Several parallel processes – not always confined to private domain of decision-making are at work. There are some progressive measures which when pitched against continuing traditional practices seem to act quite eerily. Rising age at marriage and spread of education amongst girls mean families now have to invest in girls for a longer period. Marriages continue to remain almost universal constructs; they are also becoming increasingly status-linked with dowries showing no sign of abatement. The patrivirilocal residence (daughters moving to their in-laws' place) mean investing in daughters - the `benefits accruing elsewhere - has come to be seen as a burden that can be avoided (John et al 2008).

Despite acknowledging daughters as more supportive and caring, the societal perception of sons as old-age support persists. It may well be argued that these social changes are taking place in several parts of India which also have access to technology to indulge in sex-selective abortions. And still, there are parts in the country – south, south-eastern and north-eastern - which have better CSRs. Clearly technology operates in consonance with other existing norms and not in contextual isolation independent of socio-culturally entrenched values regarding the relative worth of girls' vis-à-vis boys, men and women.

A set of issues concern the overall well-being and enhancement of women's position in the society not only as a full citizen, but as an individual in their own right which include access to education and livelihood and public health facilities including reproductive care.

The aging population in India is on the rise and parents continue to look up to their sons for old-age care. Such real or

perceived dependence has to be systematically addressed. The responsibility of the state for its senior citizens is enshrined in Article 41 of the Constitution. Although a state subject, the nodal responsibility for the aged is vested with the Centre. Various public policies of old-age support cover very few. Moreover, the eligibility rules are often complicated while the pension amounts are pittance. Institutional support for old-age security which includes affordable comprehensive geriatric care is the urgent need of the hour. Some myths need busting. Daughters move out post-marriage, but so do the sons. In fact, many daughters now financially support and look after their parents. This dimension needs systematic exposure and attention to claim wider legitimacy. Often the issue of sex-selective abortion gets embroiled with abortion rights; the latter is part of the larger debate regarding the reproductive rights while sex-selective abortion is about socially triggered aversion against girls and is reflective of son preference.

Although legal provisions are not the answers, they do provide recourse. Public at large are unaware of most of the legal and institutional provisions that are now available. Some of the suggested steps are essentially long-term. The most immediate response has to be against the nexus between the medical fraternity, health workers and others in the system that makes sex-selective abortion an easy task. Although several cases of violations of PNDT Act are routinely reported, implementation is poor and prosecutions are rare.

Undoubtedly, the complex and multi-layered nature of declining numbers of girls require multi-pronged and context specific responses, non-negotiable social commitment at various levels and concerted efforts in a mission mode to avert this national shame. ❑

(E-mail:saraswati_raju@hotmail.com)



YE-71/2011

Demographic Change, Age Structure Transition and Ageing in India: Issues and Challenges

K S James
K M Sathyanarayana



As the socio-economic processes associated with ageing are complex, the country needs to plan and gear up well in advance to face the challenge

INDIA, ACCOUNTING for nearly 18 percent of the world population has been experiencing slow but steady demographic transition since the second half of the last century. In recent years, however, the fertility transition in India has accelerated resulting in rapid changes in the age structure of the population. This change creates unique opportunities along with significant challenges both for the economy and society. The age structure change is expected to create demographic dividend initially and ageing of population later. With wide variation in the demographic transition across states in the country, the demographic dividend and ageing is also likely to vary significantly across states in India.

The provisional population result from 2011 census provides some useful information on the pace of demographic change taking place in the country. Although provisional data do not provide age composition of the population, the available population totals and the proportion of child population in the age group 0-6 years help us to understand the emerging demographic change and the plausible age structure transition in the country. What follows is an analysis of the available data from the 2011 census to understand the emerging age structure changes in India.

The changing demographic profile of India

The 2011 census result brings out some interesting patterns of change in the distribution of 0-6 age group population in relation to the overall population in the country. The proportion of the population in the age group 0-6 declined from 16 per cent to 13 per cent over period 2001-11, growth rate being negative for the first time (Table 1).

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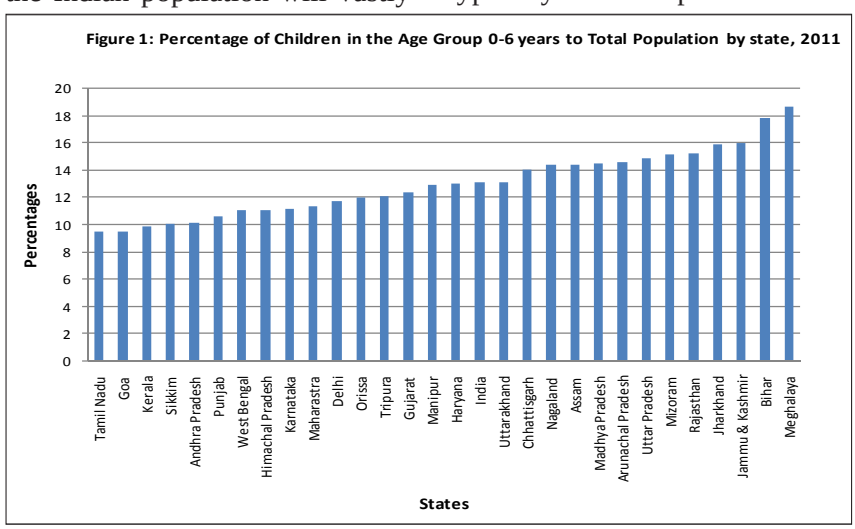
Table 1 Growth rate of 0-6 age group population in India, 1981-91 to 2001-11	
Year	**Annual Growth Rate (in Per Cent)**
1981-91	1.78
1991-01	1.54
2001-11	-3.08

Source: Census of India (2011)

One of the important dimensions of demographic change in India is the extreme inter-state variation. Of the total 20 major states, nearly 11 have achieved replacement level fertility while other 4 are around replacement level. On the contrary, there are around six major states far away from replacement level fertility. The fertility variation in the country is astounding. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) varies from 1.7 children per woman in Tamil Nadu to 3.9 children per woman in Bihar in the year 2008 (*Sample Registration System data 2009).* The 2011 census result also provides information on the proportion of population in the 0-6 age group in each state. The variation clearly indicates that the age structure of the Indian population will vastly be different across states. Figure 1 presents percentage of 0-6 age group population to the total population in each state.

The proportion of population in the 0-6 age group is a good measure of demographic and age structure change of a state. Those states having less than 12 percent of their population in the age group 0-6, fall among the below replacement level fertility states. These states will have an age distribution with a considerable bulge in the adult age groups of 15-59. States having around 13-15 per cent of their population in the age group 0-6, are moving towards an age structure transition. On the contrary, those states with more than 15 per cent of the population in the 0-6 age group are in the early stages of demographic change and will have an age distribution typically of a triangle shape indicating higher percentage of child population in relation to adult population.

Undoubtedly, India's age structure is undergoing rapid changes. It will have definite implications for the economy and society. The age structure transition typically has two phases. In the first phase of the transition, there will be a bulge in the working age group popularly known as the demographic dividend stage. The demographic divided is a shorter duration in the history of any nation. The span of the dividend varies according to the pace of the fertility transition. The second phase of age structure transition occurs with the ageing of the population. The proportion of elderly is likely to go up at this stage**.**



Source: Computed from the Census of India (2011)

The demographic Dividend in India

Demographic dividend refers to a change in the age distribution of population from child ages to adult ages. It leads to larger proportion of population in the working age group compared to younger and old age groups. Apparently, given the diversity in the fertility transition in India, the demographic dividend is likely to continue as it shifts from one state to another based on the pace of demographic changes in the respective states. It is generally argued that the demographic change in India is opening up new economic opportunities (James 2008). There is generally high optimism both based on the experience of many other countries and from India that demographic changes will take the country to newer economic heights (Bloom and Williamson, 1998; Aiyer and Modi 2011; James 2008).

Along with high optimism, there are also larger concerns on the ability of the nation to take full advantage of the demographic dividend. It is often argued that demographic dividend might turn into a nightmare given the composition of the Indian population in terms of educational level and skill levels (Altbach and

Jayaram, 2010; Chandrasekhar, Ghosh and Roychwdhury, 2006). It is argued that large segments of adult population in the country are illiterate and do not have the capacity to contribute substantially to the modern economy.

Perhaps, demographic dividend needs to be understood more critically and in a proper perspective. Many of the good empirical studies estimating the impact of age structure changes on the economic progress have indicated very high impact of age structure change and positive demographic dividend in the country (Aiyer and Modi 2011; Bloom et al, 2006; James 2008). In other words, these studies bring out clearly that those states moving faster in demographic and age structure change are also experiencing rapid economic growth. The best examples come from southern and western states in India where the demographic changes are also leading to sustained economic changes both in the aggregate economy and in the lives of people.

The 2011 census results show that there has been significant inflow of migration to many southern states in India. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are attracting huge inflow of migrants from other states. In these states, the enumerated population has been far higher than the projected population. Perhaps, it points towards a replacement migration taking place into these states. The replacement migration refers to migration occurring as a result of age structure changes. With the demographic and age structure changes, there will be scarcity of labour particularly in the unskilled sector. This labour has to be replaced from other places with abundance of labour due to lack of any significant demographic changes. In the context of Western countries, the replacement migration mainly came from poor developing countries. On the contrary, India is able to take care of the replacement migration from within due to large diversity in the nature of demographic transition. The replacement migration into Kerala is well known and many studies have pointed out large inflow of such migrants from other parts of the country (Zachariah and Rajan 2004).

Thus it is clear that the demographic changes create demographic opportunities and dividend and the concern that India may not be able to experience demographic dividend is perhaps not empirically validated. There is also ample evidence to suggest that demographic changes enhance economic changes. Micro level evidence also suggests that age structure changes lead to substantial investment in children both in terms of education and health (Bhat, 2002). Thus the demographic dividend emanates from rapid changes in fertility which has several positive impacts both at macro and at household level.

Demographic Change and Ageing

As already pointed out, the demographic dividend is of a shorter duration for any country and eventually the nation will move into an ageing population. Although not immediate, change in the age structure from young to old are also accompanied by several social changes with considerable implications on any nation. The size of the Indian elderly (60 years and above) is expected to triple in the next four decades from 92 million to 316 million, constituting around 20 percent of the population by the middle of the century (Bloom, 2011).

There is no significant empirical evidence to suggest that larger proportion of elderly population would impede the economic progress of a nation. At the same time, there are many social changes expected as a result of ageing population in any nation. The major challenge would be on the care for the elderly. Demographic and economic changes are often accompanied by enhanced migration of people in search of better and quality employment. As a result of this adult migration, the elderly are often left behind. The living arrangement pattern of the elderly are expected to undergo rapid changes during this period. Such changes are already visible in states like Kerala with early demographic transition.

Even though the proportion of elderly at the national level has been low, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), Government of India deserves recognition for its foresight in drafting a National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) as early as in 1999, when less than 7 percent of the population was aged 60 and above. The policy vision statement is well articulated and action strategies cover important aspects of financial security, health, shelter, education, welfare and protection of life and property.

The major lacuna of the NPOP, however, has been lack clear

prioritization (increasing old-older proportion, feminization and ruralisation along with inter-state variations). Although many important aspects of ageing policy are mentioned in the NPOP, it is unclear what the specific goals are, what steps are envisaged towards achieving these goals, and how it fits into a realistic implementation schedule given the emerging demographic scenario in the country and the current institutional arrangements.

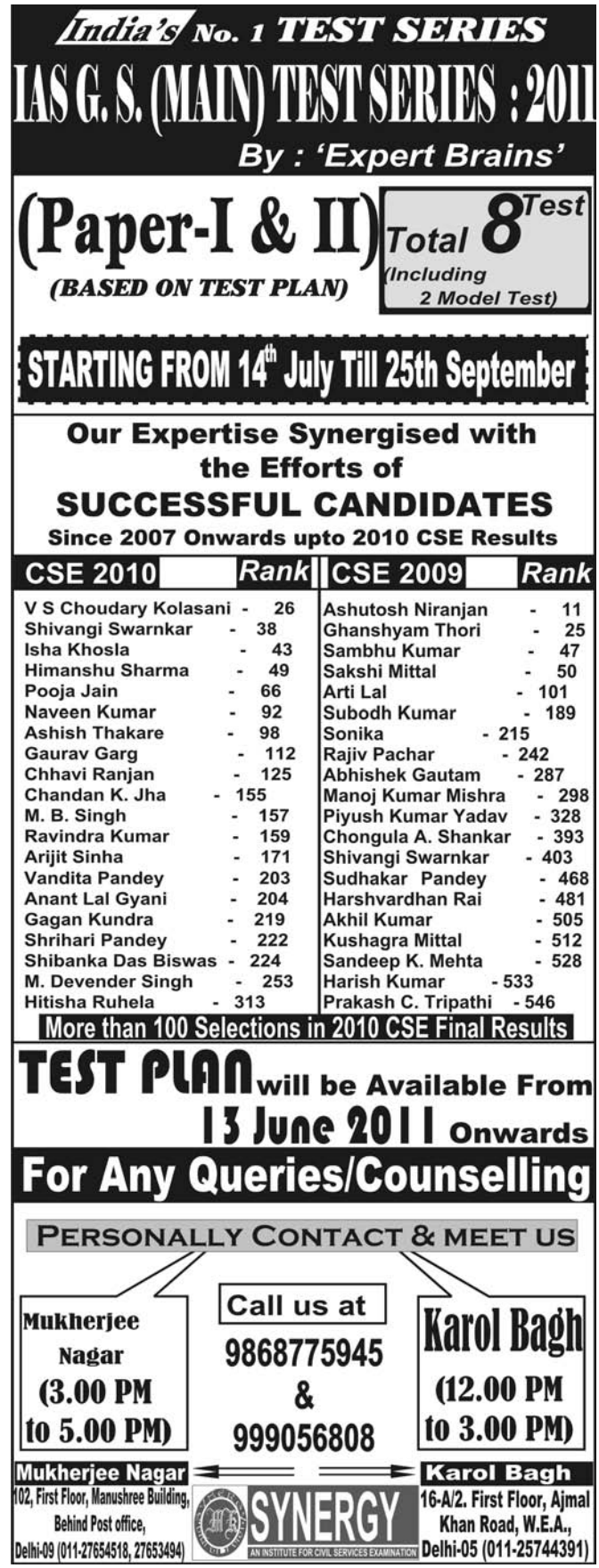
India is soon to follow the foot-steps of China and is likely to surpass Chinese population to become the country with the largest population in the world between 2025 and 2030. China through policy action has been pushing forward healthy sustainable development of undertakings for its ageing population. The government has attached importance to publicizing and popularizing laws, regulations and policies concerning senior citizens. It has set up an inter-agency/inter-ministerial committee on ageing to monitor and implement policies and programs for older people.

As the socio-economic processes associated with ageing are complex, the country needs to plan and gear up well in advance to face the challenge. Sudden intervention may not be appropriate and may not provide significant dividend. Many countries have realized the importance of preparing for the aging in advance through several policy and programmatic intervention. Perhaps, India too, needs to follow the footsteps of these nations at the earliest to minimize the ill effects of a larger social change.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, demographic and age structure changes are inevitable and generally contribute positively to the nation. The demographic changes are also accompanied by considerable social and economic changes. It is important that the nation is prepared to take care of such rapid changes. In the future, the success of a nation will critically depend upon its ability to address such sweeping demographic changes effectively though policies and programmes. India is on the course of rapid demographic changes. Hence preparedness in advance might provide dividends in the future. ❑

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J&K WINDOW

WORLD'S HIGHEST RAIL BRIDGE OVER CHENAB

The world's highest railway bridge-five times the height of Qutub Minar and 35 metres taller than Eiffel Tower -will come up over the Chenab river on the under construction rail link to the Kashmir Valley.

The bridge will rise 359 metres over the Chenab, 65 km from Katra, on the 73-km Katra-Dharam section of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project. This section alone will cost around Rs 5,005 crore. Konkan Railway Corporation, with experience of building 179 major bridges on the path-breaking rail link through the Konkan region, will execute this particular section.

The 1,315-metre bridge will use upto 25,000 million tonnes of steel and will be an engineering marvel and work is going on in full swing. The world's tallest rail bridge is on France's Tarn river and its tallest pillar rises 340 metres while the actual height at which trains run on the bridge is 300 metres. The Chenab bridge will be the highest in the world.

Observing that wind speed at the height of 359 metres may go up to 266 kmph, the engineers have decided not to allow trains crossing the Chenab bridge if the wind velocity is more than 90 kmph. The railways have designed the signalling system at the bridge in such a manner that it shows the stop light automatically when wind speed is more than 90 kmph.

Considering the inaccessible terrain of the Himalayan mountains, the bridge will get a special coat of paint with a life span of around 35 years to protect it from the tough weather. ❑

STRATEGY TO BOOST TOURISM

Jammu and Kashmir government will embark on a multi-pronged strategy to develop and showcase the tourism potential of the state both at domestic and global level. Over Rs 315 crore centrally-funded projects are under execution to boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Government has embarked on a multi-pronged strategy to develop and showcase boundless tourism potential of the state both at domestic and global level.

Development of basic tourism infrastructure through private investment, opening of new potential destinations and development of heritage, adventure, pilgrim and eco-tourism form components of the plan. An amount of Rs 222 crore has been incurred on development of tourism infrastructure under the state plan during the last two years. 53 villages across the state will be developed as tourist villages to boost rural tourism for which the Centre will to provide requisite funds.

The government has identified two mega tourist projects for development at a cost of Rs 100 crore which include spiritual destination of Leh, development of mega tourist circuit from Naagar Nagar to Watlab and conservation and restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex.

Opening of new tourism destinations is the top priority of the government, 20 new tourism destinations have been identified for exploitation in the last few years. 36 new tourism projects have been prioritised and Centre is expected to sanction Rs 100 crore for these projects.

Pilgrim tourism also has a good market in the state and over 1.15 crore pilgrims have visited the state. This fiscal year Rs. 4.4 crore has been provided for development of pilgrim tourist facilities. To promote eco-tourism, which is the main thrust of the government, various steps are being taken while building basic infrastructure at tourism spots. Golf tourism is also being promoted in the state and Pahalgam Golf Course has been upgraded to international standards, at a cost of Rs 4.50 crore. ❑

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YE-83/2011

Literacy Trends in the Country

Barna Maulick



It can be noted that the gender gap in EAG states is declining faster than in the non-EAG states

LITERACY MUST be viewed in the context of its immense potential for bringing about transformation in the quality of human life. Its impact on bringing about a paradigm shift in the direction a society progresses can never be over estimated- be it economic, social or political. Development in educational attainment means increase in literacy level. So both education and literacy are development indicators. According to the definition in the census, any person aged seven and above who can read and write with understanding in any language is literate. According to Millennium Development Goals of United Nations, universal primary education must be achieved by the year 2015.Eleventh Five Year plan has also targeted to increase the literacy rate of children of seven years of age and above to 85 percent by reducing the gender gap in literacy to 10 percent by 2011-12. It should be clearly noted that educational development and literacy rate improvement are key factors influencing the demographic variables like fertility, mortality, migration etc. Education promotes quality of life, particularly with regards to life expectancy, infant mortality, learning and nutritional levels.

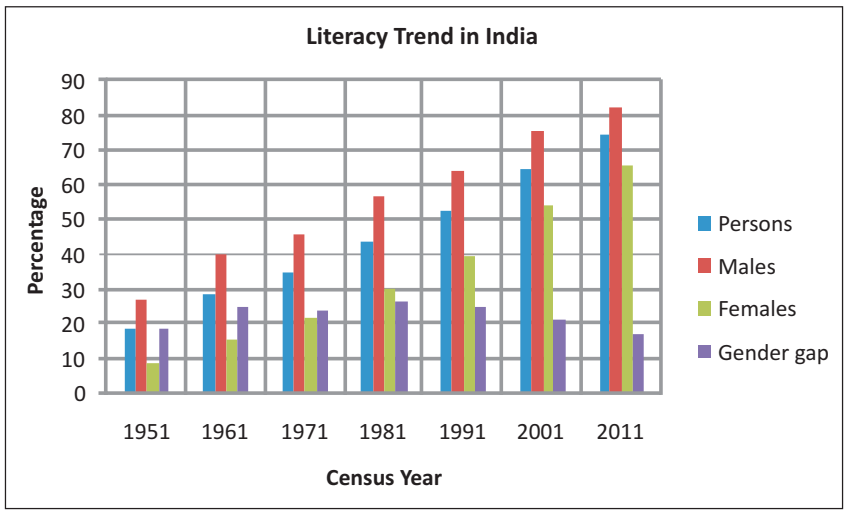
Literacy Trends in India

The pace of progress in literacy rates as revealed by decennial census is very slow in India. In the span of fifty years i.e from1951 (18.33) to 2001(64.83), there has been only marginal increase of 46.5 percent in literacy rate. Between 1951 to 2001, female literacy shows a mere 44.7 percent increase which is only five times for the whole point. According to census 2011, out of 74.04 percent of literacy rate, the corresponding figures for male and female are 82.14 and 65.46 percent respectively which means four out of every five males and two out of every three females of the age seven and above are literate in the country. Though the target set

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Table 1 Literacy Rate Trend in India 1951-2011					
Census Year	**Persons**	**Decadal Increase**	**Males**	**Females**	**Gender gap**
1951	18.33		27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	9.97	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	6.15	45.96	21.97	23.99
1981	43.57	9.12	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	8.64	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	12.62	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	9.21	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: Census Of India



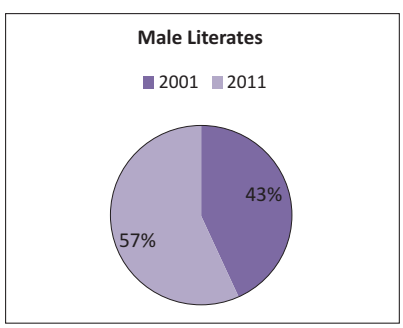
by Planning Commission to reduce the gender gap by 10 percent in 2011-12 has not been achieved yet the reduction by 5 percent (4.99%) has been achieved which is a positive stride towards decreasing illiteracy. (Table 1)

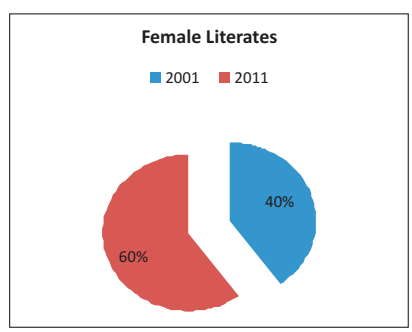
It is quite clear from the chart that the female literacy has increased and gender gap has decreased, so both are showing a positive development in 2011.

A significant milestone of Census 2011 is that the total number of illiterates has come down from 30.4 crores in 2001 to 27.2 crores showing a decline of 3.1 crore. Out of total 21.7 crores literates, female (11.0 crores) outnumber males (10.7 crores). Another striking feature is that, out of total decrease of 3.1 crore of illiterates, the females (1.7 crores) top male (1.4 crore) in the list. This trend of rising female literacy will have far reaching consequences which may lead to development of the society. The growth in number of male and female literates is represented by pie.

When we portray the literacy picture of India we find that the ordering of the states are almost same as it was in 2001 as Kerela still continues to top the list with 93.91 percent literacy rate whereas Bihar remains at the bottom of the ladder with 63.82 percent. Although Bihar has performed well in 2011census compared to literacy rate in 2001 (47.00 %) still it lies in the lowest rank. States like Punjab (76.68%), Haryana (76.64%), Madhya Pradesh (70.63%), Andhra Pradesh (75.60%), Karnataka (67.66%) and Tamil Nadu (80.33%) and UTs like Andaman & Nicobar Islands (86.27%), Chandigarh (86.43 %) were downgraded from their previous rank whereas Tripura (87.75 %), Sikkim (82.20%), Manipur (79.85 %), Nagaland (80.11%) and UTs like Dadra & Nagar Haveli (77.65%), NCT of Delhi (86.34%), Puducherry (86.55%) and Lakshadweep (92.28%) have shown higher rankings than before.

India's literacy rate has shot up during the past decade and now, except Bihar, all other states lie above the national average. Even though Bihar has shown 17 percent increase in literacy rate but still it is below the national average. Out of 38 districts of Bihar, 21 districts have shown an improvement in female literacy rate, with naxal affected region Munger topping the list in female literacy with 63.53 per cent.





On the basis of literacy rates, States / UTs can be grouped as:

2001	2011
High Literacy Rate (80% and above): Kerela (90.86 %), Mizoram (88.80 %), Lakshadweep (86.66 %), Goa (82.01 %), Chandigarh (81.94 %), NCT of Delhi (81.67 %), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.30 %), Puducherry (81.24%).	**High Literacy Rate (80% and above):** Kerela (93.91%), Lakshadweep (92.28%), Mizoram (91.58%), Tripura (87.75%), Goa (87.40%), Daman & Diu (87.07%), Puducherry (86.55%), Chandigarh (86.43%), NCT of Delhi (86.34%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (86.27%), Himachal Pradesh (83.78%), Maharashtra (82.91%), Sikkim (82.20%), Tamil Nadu (80.33%), Nagaland (80.11%).
Literacy Rate above National Level 64.8% and below 80%: Daman & Diu (78.18%), Maharashtra (76.88 %), Himachal Pradesh (76.48%), Tamil Nadu (73.45%), Tripura (73.19%), Uttarakhand (71.62%), Manipur (69.93%), Punjab (69.65%), Gujarat (69.14%), Sikkim (68.81%), West Bengal (68.64%), Haryana (67.91%), Andhra Pradesh (66.64%), Nagaland (66.59%).	**Literacy Rate above National Level 64.8% and below 80%:** Manipur (79.85%), Uttarakhand (79.63%), Gujarat (79.31%), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (77.65%), West Bengal (77.08%), Punjab (76.68%), Haryana (76.64%), Andhra Pradesh (75.60%), Meghalaya (75.48%), Orissa (73.45%), Assam (73.18%), Chattisgarh (71.04%), Madhya Pradesh (70.63%), Uttar Pradesh (69.72%), Jammu & Kashmir (68.74%), Karnataka (67.66%), Jharkhand (67.63%), Rajasthan (67.06%), Arunachal Pradesh (66.95%).
Literacy Rate below national average (64.8%): Chattisgarh (64.66%), Madhya Pradesh (63.74%), Assam (63.25%), Orissa (63.08%), Meghalaya (62.56%), Karnataka (60.47%), Rajasthan (60.41%), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (57.63%), Uttar Pradesh (56.27%), Jammu & Kashmir (55.52%), Arunachal Pradesh (54.34%), Jharkhand (53.56%), Bihar (47.00%).	**Literacy Rate below national average (64.8%):** Bihar (63.82%).

Empowered Action Group States Versus Non- Empowered Action Group States:

Literacy rate in non-EAG states is higher than the literacy rate of EAG states but the change in percentage points of literacy rate between 2001 and 2011 is higher in EAG states compared to non-EAG states which shows that EAG states are also picking up with non-EAG states.

It can be noted that the gender gap in EAG states is declining faster than the non-EAG states. The decline in gender gap between 2001 and 2011 is 5.92 percent in EAG states whereas it is 4.38 in non-EAG states. It is really interesting to note that the percentage increase in number of literates is remarkable in EAG states between 2001 and 2011. Bihar (74.83 %), Jharkhand (59.24%) and Uttar Pradesh (56.40%) are in the highest position followed by Rajasthan (40.68%) and Chhattisgarh (39.61%) whereas Madhya Pradesh (38.73%), Uttarakhand (37.05%) and Orissa (36.68%) are still lagging behind.

In the First Five Year Plan, the program of Social Education, inclusive of literacy, was introduced as part of the Community Development Program in 1952. The National Policy on Education in 1968 not only endorsed the recommendations of the Education Commission but also reiterated the significance of universal literacy

Literacy Rate and Gender Gap in EAG/non-EAG States

	1991			2001			2011			Gender Gap		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	1991	2001	2011
India	52.21	64.13	39.29	64.83	75.26	53.67	74.04	82.14	65.46	24.85	21.59	16.68
Non-EAG States	60.09	70.34	49.20	70.64	79.25	61.53	78.24	84.76	71.42	21.14	17.72	13.34
EAG Sates	41.65	56.00	25.68	57.22	70.09	43.21	68.86	78.96	57.99	30.32	26.89	20.97

Source: Census Of India

and developing adult and continuing education as matters of priority. The formal elementary education program was supplemented by a non-formal education system. A multi-pronged approach of universalisation of elementary education and adult literacy has been adopted for achieving total literacy.

Major thrust of these programs was on promotion of literacy among women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes particularly in the rural areas. The National Adult Education Program (NAEP) was inaugurated on 2nd October, 1978. The eradication of illiteracy from a vast country like India beset by several social and economic hurdles is not an easy task. Realising this the National Literacy Mission was started on 5th May, 1988 to impart a new sense of urgency and seriousness to adult education. After the success of the areas specific, time bound, voluntary based campaign approach first in Kottayam city and then in Ernakulum district of Kerala in 1990, the National Literacy Mission had accepted the literacy campaigns as the dominant strategy for eradication of illiteracy. In 1989, the district-based Total Literacy Campaigns (TLC) emerged as a program strategy for the National Literacy Mission. The 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', a flagship programme of the Government of India was started for achievement of universalization of elementary education in a time bound manner, as later mandated by the 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory education to children of ages 6–14 , as a fundamental right. Now Sarva Shikha Abiyan is doing rounds in all the districts in most of the states for which there is huge fund allocation under 9th and 10th Five year plans. In the 11th Five Year Plan, by 2011-12, Planning Commission has targeted to increase literacy rate by 85 percent and reduce the gender gap by 10 percent.

Inspite of these massive efforts by the Government, we are still lagging behind the world literacy rate of 84 percent. Many states have shown rising trend but even then major group of states lie in the average rank i.e. just above national level of 64.8 percent and below 80 percent. Bihar is still lying below the national average. But the stride towards a completely literate India has become surer and more confident. It is also clear that the individual and the community need to play active roles as stakeholders in this process and their role needs to be recognized and built upon for realizing the objective of a fully literate India. ❑

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YE-74/2011

Population growth and the Millennium Development Goals in India

Sanjay K Mohanty



The states with higher growth rate of population are lagging behind in attaining the MDGs. Reduction of population growth is essential to improve the socio-economic condition of people and attain the MDGs

THIS ARTICLE seeks to bring out the linkages of population growth and the millennium development goals (MDG) in India. It has been conceptualized with the following rationale. First, India's progress in achieving the MDGs is of global significance as it constitutes 18% of world population. Second, evidences suggest that the progresses in attaining the MDGs are slow and uneven across and within the countries (Lawn *et al*., 2006; Houweling *et al.*, 2007). Third, though the population growth is not an implicit indicator of MDGs, it is the underlying cause of attaining the MDGs in developing countries. Globally, the countries with higher birth rate and slower growth rate of population (natural growth rate) are faster in achieving the MDGs. For example, the progress in east Asian countries were faster compared to South Asian and African countries. Studies indicate that India's declining poverty rates have been offset by population growth (Chen and Ravallion 2004).

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of numerical and time bound goals adopted by 189 member states of United Nation in September, 2000 at UN Millennium Summit, New York, USA. The MDGs are global effort to address the multidimensional poverty (income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion), promoting gender equality, education and environmental sustainability. The MDGs comprise 8 goals, 21 targets and

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60 indicators that are placed in the global development agenda. For each goal, there are certain targets and for each target there are certain indicators. The base year of MDGs was 1990 and the final year is 2015. MDG have become the most widely used yardstick of development effort by the government, donors and non-governmental organizations and extensively used in assessing the progress at national and sub-national level. The set of eight MDGs are given in table 1

Table 1: List of eight Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1:	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goals 2:	Achieve Universal Primary Education
Goal 3:	Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4:	Reduce child mortality
Goal5:	Improve maternal health
Goal 6:	Combat HIV/AID, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7:	Ensure environmental sustainability
	Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Population growth and the MDGs

Population growth is the resultant of both natural increase and net-migration. Natural increase is the net of birth rate over death rate while net-migration is the excess of in-migration over out migration. Population growth has direct impact on seven of the eight MDGs. At the micro level, rapid population growth creates a demographic-poverty trap. Large families tend to be poorer, suffer disproportionately from illness, makes less use of health services. Smaller families invest more in each child's nutrition and health. At the macro level, the amount of resources, personnel and the infrastructure required to meet the MDGs will be substantially higher with higher population growth.

Results

Table 2 gives the population size, distribution, annual exponential growth rate, the crude birth rate and the selected indicators of MDGs for states and union territories of India We have presented the indicators in there groups, namely, bigger states of India (constituting about 97% of India's population), smaller states (constituting 2.7% of India's population) and union territories.

Population growth and eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

Goal one of MDGs aims at eradication of poverty and hunger between 1990 and 2015. While poverty is measured with respect to consumption / income, hunger is measured by reduction of underweight children under-five years of age and population below minimum level of dietary consumption. Higher population growth adversely affects the reduction of poverty and hunger in the population, both at micro and macro level. At the micro level, large families tend to be poorer and it creates demographic-poverty trap. At the macro level, the higher rate of population growth means that in order to reduce poverty, the economies must not only grow at a sustained higher pace but generate new jobs and income earning opportunities at an accelerated rate. Similarly, poverty and under nutrition are intimately related. A higher proportion of children belonging to poorer and large households are undernourished.

The population growth in last decade, the crude birth rate, the poverty estimates and the trends in under-nutrition among states of India reflect a similar pattern. The estimates show that the states with higher population growth rate, for example Bihar, tend to have higher percentage of population below poverty line and higher under-nutrition than states like Kerala which have lower population growth rates. The same trend can be seen in the smaller states, for example while comparing the figures for Meghalaya and Goa. The high growth rates in Union Territories are largely due to migration and the estimates of poverty and nutrition are not available. Studies have documented that the progress towards the MDGs have been slower than the required rate in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, experiencing higher population growth (Ram, Mohanty and Ram 2009).

Population growth and universal primary education

Goal 2 of MDGs is to achieve the universal primary education and is measured by the net enrolment ratio in primary school, the proportion of pupils reaching last grade of primary and the literacy rate of 15-24 years old

Table 2: Population size, distribution, growth and selected indicators of MDGs in states of India

		Indicators of Census 2011					MDG Indicators				
Sr No	India/ states/ Union territories	Population in millions, 2011 (col 3)	Percentage share in India's population, 2011 (col 4)	Annual exponential growth rate, 2001-11 (col 5)	Sex ratio of 0-6 age group (col 6)	Crude Birth Rate, 2009 (col 7)	Percentage of population below poverty line, 2004-05 (col 8)	Percentage of children underweight for age, 2005-06, (col 9)	Infant Mortality Rate, 2009 (col 10)	Proportion of 1 year child Immunization against Measles, 2005-06 (col 11)	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, 2007-08 (col 12)
	India	**1210.19**	**100**	1.64	914	22.5	37.2	42.8	50	58.8	52.3
	Bigger states	1174.01	97.01								
1	Andhra Pradesh	84.67	7.00	1.06	943	18.3	29.9	32.5	49	69.4	75.6
2	Assam	31.17	2.58	1.58	957	23.6	34.4	36.4	61	37.4	39.9
3	Bihar	103.80	8.58	2.26	933	28.5	54.4	55.9	52	40.4	31.7
4	Chhattisgarh	25.54	2.11	2.06	964	25.7	49.4	47.1	54	62.5	29.6
5	Delhi	16.75	1.38	1.92	866	18.1	13.1	26.1	33	78.2	71.6
6	Gujarat	60.38	4.99	1.77	886	22.3	31.8	44.6	48	65.7	61.6
7	Haryana	25.35	2.09	1.83	830	22.7	24.1	39.6	51	75.5	53.2
8	Jammu & Kashmir	12.55	1.04	2.15	859	18.6	13.2	25.6	45	78.3	58.6
9	Jharkhand	32.97	2.72	2.04	943	25.6	45.3	56.5	44	47.6	24.9
10	Karnataka	61.13	5.05	1.47	943	19.5	33.4	37.6	41	72	71.6
11	Kerala	33.39	2.76	0.48	959	14.7	19.7	22.9	12	82.1	99.4
12	Madhya Pradesh	72.60	6.00	1.87	912	27.7	48.6	60	67	61.4	49.9
13	Maharashtra	112.37	9.29	1.49	883	17.6	38.1	37	31	84.7	69.2
14	Orissa	41.95	3.47	1.32	934	21	57.2	40.7	65	66.5	50.8
15	Punjab	27.70	2.29	1.3	846	17	20.9	24.9	38	78	76.9
16	Rajasthan	68.62	5.67	1.96	883	27.2	34.4	39.9	59	42.7	52.6
17	Tamil Nadu	72.14	5.96	1.46	946	16.3	28.9	29.8	28	92.5	95.5
18	Uttar Pradesh	199.58	16.49	1.85	899	28.7	40.9	42.4	63	37.7	30
19	West Bengal	91.35	7.55	1.31	950	17.2	34.3	38.7	33	74.7	51.6
	Smaller states	32.85	2.71								
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1.38	0.11	2.3	960	21.1	31.1	32.5	32	38.3	48.8
2	Goa	1.46	0.12	0.79	920	13.5	25.0	25	11	91.2	96.6
3	Himachal Pradesh	6.86	0.57	1.21	906	17.2	22.9	36.5	45	86.3	50.9
4	Manipur	2.72	0.22	1.72	934	15.4	38.0	22.1	16	52.8	55.3
5	Meghalaya	2.96	0.24	2.49	970	24.4	16.1	48.8	59	43.8	28.9
6	Mizoram	1.09	0.09	2.07	971	17.6	15.3	19.9	36	69.5	63.3
7	Nagaland	1.98	0.16	-0.05	944	17.2	9.0	25.2	26	27.3	NA
8	Sikkim	0.61	0.05	1.17	944	18.1	31.1	19.7	34	83.1	56
9	Tripura	3.67	0.30	1.39	953	14.8	40.6	39.6	31	59.9	47.2
10	Uttarakhand	10.12	0.84	1.77	886	19.7	32.7	38	41	71.6	35.2
	Union Territories	3.33	0.28								
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.38	0.03	0.65	966	16.3	NA	NA	27	NA	77.4
2	Chandigarh	1.05	0.09	1.59	867	15.9	NA	NA	25	NA	81
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.34	0.03	4.51	924	27	NA	NA	37	NA	45.4
4	Daman & Diu	0.24	0.02	4.38	909	19.2	NA	NA	24	NA	69.2
5	Lakshadweep	0.06	0.01	0.61	908	15	NA	NA	25	NA	95.7
6	Puducherry	1.24	0.10	2.48	965	16.5	NA	NA	22	NA	99.2

Sources: Col 3,5 & 6 are taken from Provisional Population Totals, Paper 1 of 2011, Col 7 & 10 are taken from SRS Bulletin, Vol 45 (1), January 2011, Col 8 form report of the expert group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty, page 17GOI, 2009, Col 9 and 11 are taken from National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), Vol 1, Page 273 and page 231 respectively, Col 122 from District level household and facility survey, 2007-08, Page 70, NA: Data not available

(youth literacy rate). While many states have made commendable progress in primary enrolment in last decades, the school dropout rates and the quality of schooling is a concern. About 42% young people aged 15-24 years in Bihar are non-literate or literate without formal schooling compared to 31% in Jharkhand, 29% in Rajasthan, 16% in Andhra Pradesh, 7% in Maharashtra and 4% in Tamil Nadu (IIPS and Population Council 2006-07).

Population growth, gender equality and empowerment of women

Goal 3 of MDGs aims at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. The corresponding indicators were ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, share of women in wage employment and proportion of seats in national parliament. The recent trends showed improvement in all levels of education among girls, but the gender gap continued to be higher in the states with low level of literacy and higher population growth. However, the decline in sex ratio of 0-6 year children (not an indicator of MDGs) in many progressive states is the most worrying factor. The sex ratio of 0-6 population indicates the number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. The decline in sex ratio is due to three possible factors, namely, increase in sex selective abortion, higher child mortality and under-enumeration of girls. While the under-enumeration of girls has minimized in recent censuses, the gender differentials in child mortality has also narrowed down. Hence, increasing practice of sex selective abortion in the wake of reduction in fertility and strong son preference is leading to decline in child sex ratio. This phenomenon is more among better educated and economically better off sections of the population across the states.

Population growth and health related goals

Reduction of child mortality (goal 4) and improvement in maternal health are two of the health related goals of MDGs. The monitoring indicators to measure progress in child mortality are under-five mortality, infant mortality rate and the proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles. The under-five mortality is the probability of not surviving till fifth-birth day while the infant mortality is the probability of not surviving till first birth-day. These are two sensitive indicators that reflect the health situation of the population. India accounts for one-fifth of under-five mortality. The underlying cause of under-five mortality are pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, neo-natal infection and birth asphyxia, prematurity and low birth weight, birth trauma (The Million Death Study Collaboration 2010) and closely related to poverty. Regional pattern in child mortality shows that the empowered action group (EAG) states such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa account for more than two-thirds of under-five and infant mortality rate. These are also states with higher population growth. The infant mortality is highest in the state of Madhya Pradesh and higher in Uttar Pradesh.

Maternal health is measured by the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. In 2007-08, about half of the deliveries in India were conducted at home without any medical assistance (IIPS 2010). The medical assistance at delivery is almost universal in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu where fertility and natural growth rate of population is low. On the other hand, it is low in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Several government schemes including the *Janani Surakhaya Yojana* are operational to increase the medical assistance at delivery. The higher population growth rate increases the cost of service provision such as ante-natal care, natal care and child immunization to national and state government.

Conclusion

The progress towards attaining the MDGs is slow and uneven across the states of India. The prime responsibility for achieving the MDG lies with individual states. The increase in population due to high birth rate is definitely affecting the reduction of multidimensional poverty in many of the states. With limited resources and low levels of income, reduction of population growth will be beneficial to reduce the cost of resources, personnel and the infrastructure required to meet the MDGs. ❑

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YE-75/2011

DO YOU KNOW?

RECENT STEPS TO CHECK GENERATION AND SPREAD OF BLACK MONEY

What, broadly, has been the Government's Strategy for tackling illicit funds?

The Government has adopted five-fold strategy to tackle the menace of illicit funds. This consists of:

i) Joining global crusade against 'black money';

ii) Creating an appropriate legislative framework;

iii) Setting up institutions for dealing with Illicit Funds;

iv) Developing systems for implementation; and

v) Imparting skills to the manpower for effective action.

What steps have been taken recently by the Central Government to check the generation and spread of black money ?

The government has recently taken several steps to check the generation and spread of black money. Some of these include:

- Constitution of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to examine ways to strengthen laws to curb the generation of black money in the country, its illegal transfer abroad and its recovery.
- Commissioning fresh study through top national level institutions for estimation of unaccounted income/wealth both inside and outside the country.
- Creation of new Directorate of Income Tax (Criminal Investigation)
- The government will introduce a Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament that will enable confiscation of illegal money.

What is the constitution of the committee set up to examine ways to strengthen laws to curb the generation of black money ?

The Committee will be headed by Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). It includes Member (L&C), CBDT; Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED); Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI); Director General (Currency); Joint Secretary (FT&TR),CBDT; Joint Secretary, MoL; Director, FIU-IND, all as its Members. The Commissioner of Income Tax (CIT) (Inv), CBDT would be its Member Secretary.

What are the functions of this committee?

The Committee will examine the existing legal and administrative framework to deal with the menace of generation of black money through illegal means including, inter alia,

(a) Declaring wealth generated illegally as national asset;

(b) Enacting/amending laws to confiscate and recover such assets; and

(c) Providing for exemplary punishment against its perpetrators.

The Committee will also consult all the stakeholders and submit its report within a period of six months.

Which are the national level institutions conducting the study for estimation of unaccounted income ?

The study is being undertaken by the following national institutes:-

(a) National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP);

b) National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) ; and

c) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

What is the purpose of the study ?

This study will bring out the nature of activities that encourage money laundering and its ramifications on national security. The study has already commenced in March, 2011 and is expected to be completed within a period of 18 months. The terms of reference of the study are as follows:-

(i) To assess/survey unaccounted income and wealth both inside and outside the country.

(ii) To profile the nature of activities engendering money laundering both inside and outside the country with its ramifications on national security.

(iii) To identify important sectors of economy in which unaccounted money is generated and examine causes and conditions that result in generation of unaccounted money.

(iv) To examine the methods employed in generation of unaccounted money and conversion of the same into accounted money.

(v) To suggest ways and means for detection and prevention of unaccounted money and bringing the same into the mainstream of economy.

(vi) To suggest methods to be employed for bringing to tax unaccounted money kept outside India. (vii) To estimate the quantum of non-payment of tax due to evasion by registered corporate bodies.

So far there are no reliable estimates of black money generated and held within and outside the country. The different estimates on quantum of black money range between USD 500 billion to USD 1,400 billion. The Government has therefore, commissioned these institutions to get an estimation and sense of the quantum of illicit fund generated and held within and outside the country.

What would be the function of the newly created Directorate of Income Tax (Criminal Investigation) ?

The DCI will perform functions in respect of criminal matters having any financial implication punishable as an offence under any direct tax law.The DCI will be required to perform the following functions:

(a) To seek and collect information about persons and transactions suspected to be involved in criminal activities having cross-border, inter-state or international ramifications, that pose a threat to national security and are punishable under the direct tax laws;

(b) To investigate the source and use of funds involved in such criminal activities;

(c) To cause issuance of a show cause notice for offences committed under any direct tax law;

(d) To file prosecution complaint in the competent court under any direct tax law relating to a criminal activity;

(e) To hire the services of special prosecutors and other experts for pursuing a prosecution 'complaint filed in any court of competent jurisdiction;

(f) To execute appropriate witness protection programmes for effective prosecution of criminal offences under the direct tax laws, i.e. to protect and rehabilitate witnesses who support the state in prosecution of such offences so as to insulate them from any harm to their person;

(g) To coordinate with and extend necessary expert, technical and logistical support to any other intelligence or law enforcement agency in India investigating crimes having cross-border, interstate or international ramifications that pose a threat to national security;

(h) To enter into agreements for sharing of information and other cooperation with any central or state agency in India;

(i) To enter into agreements for sharing of information and other cooperation with such agencies of foreign states as may be permissible under any international agreement or treaty; and

(j) Any other matter relating to the above

What will be the broad structure of DCI ?

The DCI will be headed by a Director General of Income Tax (Criminal Investigation), who will be an officer of the rank of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, and will be located in New Delhi. The DCI will function under administrative control of the Member (Investigation) in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and will be a subordinate office of CBDT.The DCI shall have eight Directors of Income Tax (Criminal Investigation) located at Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Lucknow. ❑

Growth of Indian Media Market

Harendra Kumar



The growth of media market has led to high competition but there is still scope for new companies to enter and existing companies to expand

THE MEDIA has played a major role in shaping Indian society both in the pre as well as the post-independence era. The print medium, which included the newspapers and other freedom related literature contributed in a big way to the freedom struggle. Freedom came, and the country came face to face with a host of socio-economic-political problems. The main role for the media under these circumstances was that of informing and educating the masses. The print medium, which was the dominant medium during those days has its limitations with a huge percentage of the population being illiterate. The role of radio, and finally, during the 1980s, the role of the television became very important. During the 1980s, the electronic medium was totally under control of the government, with Doordarshan and All India Radio being the only broadcasters. Things have changes drastically since then. The media market has seen a very major expansion during the decades that followed.

Features of Indian Media Market

Before moving on to the analysis of market growth in India, let us see the characteristics of Indian media market.

Competition affecting content of programmes: Given the kind of commercial growth the Indian media market is experiencing, it is affecting the quality of the content. Many big companies are competing for advertiser and audience attention, the media market in India has become more price oriented than the content oriented.

Private Ownership: A majority of the media organizations are owned by the major private companies. Although, recent years have seen the small investors investing in media. However, their investments are limited to subsidiaries.

Cross media Ownership: For many decades newspapers have had

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strong hold on the media market. Therefore, when government monopoly over the broadcast medium broke down, many print media companies entered this sector. For example Aaj Tak news channel belongs to India Today Groups or Radio Mirchi is owned by the Entertainment Network India Ltd. (ENIL), which is one of the subsidiaries of The Times Group. The government is planning to restrict the cross media ownership as the part of the Broadcast Services Regulation Bill (which has been debated in Parliament).

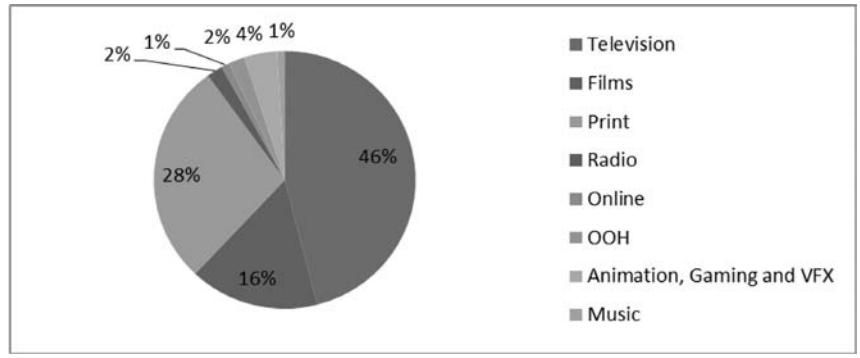
Transparency in Media Regulation: Two main divisions of the government, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Telecoms Regulatory Authority of India keep an eye on the media sector. In India the editorial enjoys freedom of expression. The policies and regulation set by these regulatory bodies can be challenged in court.

Foreign Investment: Many foreign companies have been investing in media organizations as a joint venture, as partnership or as a direct investment.

Transparent regulatory policies: In India there are many policies which regulate the working of media to make it more responsible towards society.

Regional & Cultural diversity in media: On the basis of languages, media can be divided into three broad categories: English language media, Hindi language media and regional language media. Recent years have seen a growth of regional language channels and newspapers over English and Hindi languages media. For example, in South India local audience is serviced by companies, like Sun TV, Manorama etc.

The share of different media sectors in India:



Source: PwC Analysis and Industry Estimates

We also notice some new trends in the Indian media market. Some are as follows:

Expansion of mobile phones as entertainment channel: Mobile manufacturing companies are incorporating many entertainment modes in mobile sets like radio, games, movie players, internet etc. This provides the consumer with easy access to information and entertainment.

Convergence: Convergence means merging many mediums of mass communication into one. Communication distributors like DTH (direct-to-home), CAS (conditional access system) and IPTV (Internet protocol television) have merged radio, TV and Internet into single signal. Recent examples of convergent service include: Services delivered to TV sets via system like Web TV, Email and World Wide Web access via digital TV decoders and mobile telephones and using internet for voice telephony.

The above pie chart shows the breakup of the E&M (Entertainment & Media) market in India. The figure shows that television dominates with 46% share of the market. The print and film sectosr follow with 28% and 16% respectively. The other sectors like radio, Online/ internet, OOH, Animation, Gaming & VFX and Music have relatively low share in market with 2%, 1%, 2%, 4% and 1% respectively.

As the figures show, the Indian media market is much smaller than the Japanese or Chinese markets. Advertisement as a percentage of the GDP in India is only 0.53% as compare to 1.08% for developed countries like US and 0.90% for Japan. These figures show that there is still a lot of scope for growth in Indian media industry.

Projected Growth of Media Industry in India:

The Indian Entertainment and Media market is estimated to grow from about 668.8 billion rupees in 2010 to 1040.8 billion rupees in 2014. Let's see the sector wise projected growth of the various industries in media markets.

India's place in Global E&M Market

Countries	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
India	8,746	10,503	12,401	13,616	14,052
China	41,297	47,245	57,496	69,166	75,815
Japan	150,975	160,716	166,999	169,298	164,337
US	433,842	454,572	469,096	460,997	428,140

All figures are in USD millions
Source: PwC Global E&M outlook 2010

Television Industry: Television is projected to continue to be the major player in the media industry. It has been estimated that the television sector will grow at a rate of 13.0% cumulatively over the next coming years, from an estimated Rs. 307 billion at a CAGR of 15.6% in 2010. The overall television sector is estimated to reach Rs. 488 billion by 2014.

Film Industry: The film industry in India is estimated to grow at CAGR of 12.4%, reaching Rs. 170.5 billion by 2014 from Rs. 114.5 billion, at a CAGR of 20.5%.

Print Media : The sector is projected to grow by 7.4% over the period 2010-2014, reaching Rs. 230.5 billion in 2014.

Radio Industry: Though the share of radio in media market is small as compared to television, film and print sector yet it has shown good growth in the market. The industry is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 12.2% over 200-2014, reaching Rs. 16 billion in 2014 from the estimated 10 billion in 2010. In advertisement share it is projected that radio's share will grow from 4.2% to 4.3% in coming years.

The Animation and Gaming Sector in India: It is worth noticing that many international production houses in the field of animation are dependent on Indian animation industry. This dependency will help the Indian animation sector to grow at faster rate. The sector is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 25.2% reaching Rs. 73.4 billion in 2014. Gaming industry will grow to an estimated Rs. 19.4 billion by 2014 from estimated Rs. 5.3 billion in 2009.

OOH: Out of Home advertisement was the worst hit industry in 2009 due to economic recession . However, the industry has rebounded with the use of digital technologies and tools. The estimated size of OOH sector was Rs. 12.5 billion in 2009 and it is projected to grow at a CAGR of 11.0%, reaching 21 billion in 2014.

Music Industry: Predictions say that music industry is expected to be the fastest growing segment in E&M industry.

Conclusion:

Rapid economic growth and FDI have resulted in the growth of media industry in India. The industry is benefited from favourable laws and liberations of the market. The growth of media market has led to high competition but there is still scope for new companies to enter and existing companies to expand. This is also creating many opportunities and scope for the consumer as well as for the investor. ❑

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YE-77/2011

No Tilling, No Chemicals: the Mantra for Agriculture

Baba Mayaram



Unless we learn to temper our needs of cultivation, of fodder, of fuel, infact the entire gamut of ' items' we demand from nature, it will give up on us

RAJU WHO lives on Tytlus Farm on the Hoshangabad-Bhopal road seems like an ordinary village youth living on an innocuous looking 12 -acre piece of land. It was really a chance visit, my taking a group of journalism students to understand the 'rural scenario'. To begin with, it turned the concept of good agricultural practice on its head. Wandering around here we saw fruit trees growing in the fields. This is never done; surely the shade would hamper the full growth of the crop as well as fight for space on the ground? Trees have never been known to coexist with crops, except here, it did; wheat crops, now gently swaying in the breeze peacefully coexisting with a number of flowering trees and fruit trees like guava, lemon, a local variant 'babool' rising up above these crops. Rather odd, I thought, though I was sure there was a method in the madness.

Raju smiled knowingly; sensing the questions in our minds and went on to explain the logic behind this uncharacteristic scene, somewhat akin to, I thought amusedly, to a sheep cozying up to a tiger! Raju explained that the spread of roots of the trees nourished the soil which is then drawn up by the wheat crop. That it grows in shade in some parts is secondary and does not negate the enormous benefit it receives from the enriched soil.

It struck me, in that instant that this is what is meant by 'Organic Farming', a term which has become fashionable but is little understood apart from a negation of 'chemicals' in cultivation, to protect it from vagaries of climate or virulent pests. It actually goes much beyond that and draws on any aspect of the natural phenomenon to aid the cultivation process. It befriends the earth and the natural cycles and tries to find sync with it rather than aside from it. For instance, standing water after heavy rainfall is normally drained from the fields in the belief that this would rot the crops. This farm sees it differently and sees the water as actually beneficial retaining the moisture in the soil, in the air and aiding the natural process to induce rain. I certainly could not fault that logic, based as it was on scientific principles.

I could imagine what this standing water would do to the field. The fallen twigs, leaves, plants which die all gradually turn into fabulous manure, just lying there, getting soaked! This becomes an excellent breeding ground for a variety of life forms; insects, worms, turtles, indeed an ecosystem in itself! All these have a role to play. With their movements through the soil, they actually 'till' the soil creating channels or 'perforations' right to the tips of the roots. This strengthens the soil, making it aerated and the roots become robust. A mini-universe it was, 'regeneration' being the key principle here.

Somewhere during the visit I realized how far we were from nature; how little we understand it and help it and to make matters worse, constantly flog it to extract the maximum from it. What a perverted logic! Say, something simple like tilling and watering the field, a common practice. What does it achieve? The soil becomes slushy preventing water from percolating down. The groundwater level without getting charged gets depleted. On the ground, the slush gets washed away with excess water, which in essence wipes out all the natural nutrients of the soil.

Each culture, each region down the ages has come to its own set of agricultural practices based on their understanding of nature and what was handed down to them by their ancestors. In India for example, the 'Baiga' tribals in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh practice 'Jhoom' cultivation, which eschews tilling! This is the mantra that this farm has adopted. Organic farming may make ecological sense but if it is not remunerative to the farmer, it simply cannot work. I also noticed that the crop-sown area was limited and I was right. On a 12 acre farm, only one acre was dedicated to wheat, the rest being taken up by a thick growth of Subbul' (Australian Agesia) a tree whose branches and leaves are used as fodder. As we entered the 'forest', I noticed village women with loads of this precariously perched on their heads while the men were atop trees sifting and cutting the foliage.

Raju explained, " We cultivate our lands based on our requirement and not on the market's demands. From this 1-acre, we get enough: we grow wheat in the winter; maize and ' moong' in the summer months and paddy during the monsoons! Besides we get plentiful vegetables and fruit, which supplement the dietary needs of our family. Raju went on to explain how the economics of the farm works to benefit the community, "The 'Subbul' forest is not just ideal for grazing cattle but for collecting firewood which we sell in the local market, worth one lakh rupees per year!"

I marveled at this optimum use of available resources for creating not only a good life in the immediate sense but having the wisdom and mechanism to sustain it for the years ahead. They had a rich nourished soil, sufficient food grains, and a good yield of vegetables and fruit and in the bargain, a healthy cash flow to meet their other needs. It was really a dexterous use of available resources!

When I ask myself what I have learnt, the answer comes clear. We need to see the entire world of agriculture from the prism of nature's processes and not from the quantified needs of the communities. It may seem somewhat esoteric but we need to change something fundamental in our approach. Unless we learn to temper our needs of cultivation, of fodder, of fuel, infact the entire gamut of ' items' we demand from nature, it will give up on us. We need to help it to help us, strengthen its processes for its bounty to be showered on us, not for the present alone but for generations to come. Going the 'organic' way is thus not just one option, it is the only option, one that celebrates and upholds the laws of nature, which human beings need doubtless to be in tune with.

Charkha Features

YOJANA

Forthcoming Issues

August 2011 & September 2011

August 2011
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NORTH EAST DIARY

ROAD PROJECT FOR NE

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has sanctioned a project 'ADB assisted North Eastern State Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP),' for construction and upgradation of 433 km of roads in six north-eastern states at an estimated cost of Rs 1,353.83 crore. The project is to be implemented over a period of five years (2011-2016).

The Centrally-sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) proposes construction and upgradation of 74.70 km of roads in Assam, Meghalaya 93.40 km and Sikkim 34.20 km. 62.90 km is proposed to be constructed in Assam, Manipur (93.20 km), Mizoram (55km) and Tripura (20.30 km). Ministry of DoNER is the executing agency and is responsible for overall coordination with ADB and participating States and monitoring the progress of the project.

An estimated 4.8 million people living adjacent (within 10 km) to the project roads would be directly benefited. Others will benefit from lower transport costs, faster transit time. A Central-level steering committee and Internal Project Management Unit (IPMU) within DoNER ministry, and a state-level steering committee and Project Implementation Units (PIUs) have been established in each project state.

The PIUs in each state would have primary responsibility for day-to-day project implementation and coordination of both the road works programme and Institutional Development and Capacity Building (IDCB) initiatives and would include staff for project management functions in engineering, procurement, contract management, environmental planning and management, social analysis and management, re-settlement planning and implementation, road maintenance, road safety and accounting. ❑

SCHEME TO PUSH NE ECONOMY

The government is all set to launch a scheme to promote youth activities in the upper reaches of northeastern states such as Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. The proposal by the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Ministry envisages to "integrate" the remote areas of bordering northeastern states with the rest of the country through promotion of youth activities. The move will also help in encouraging people to expand the government's administrative reach and motivate the local populace to start living in the hitherto unpopulated areas. The bordering areas of such states are sparsely populated, for example, in Arunachal Pradesh the population density is only 16 persons per sq km, which is extremely low as compared to the national average.

In view of this, the Ministry has secured the PM's approval in launching a full-fledged scheme from the 12th Plan wherein youths from other parts of the country would be facilitated in taking up activities such as trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing, jeep safaris, water sports and caving in these states.

This new initiative is aimed at enhancing the capacity building of the local youth through skill development. Under its pilot project, two trekking trails would be finalised in Arunachal Pradesh and one in Mizoram. Though the scheme — titled Movements of youth from rest of India to the border areas of NE states to participate in specially structure adventure activities — would be launched in the 12th Plan period, beginning next year, the government has approved a pilot project to be commenced this year itself.

The scheme, worth Rs 2,65,56,750, will be implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the aegis of DoNER Ministry in coordination with the respective state governments. The poor population density in Arunachal Pradesh has, for instance, led to inadequate development of the remote areas and they reportedly do not have good roads or any major economic activity. In its proposal, the Ministry has argued that "increased presence in border areas of NE region and promotion of national integration" as the key reasons behind the proposal. ❑

Folding Bicycle



This foldable bicycle is an affordable option for lakhs of users with impairment who wish to be independent and mobile

SANDEEP KUMAR was born in 1985 in Ramnagar village of West Champaran district of Bihar. An attack of polio during childhood caused permanent impairment to his left leg. He uses a metal cane to support himself while walking. Sandeep initially lived in Ramnagar upto the age of 7 years. As his fatherhad limited means and could not afford to educate him, in 1992, he went to Muzaffarpur, where his married sister was located. With his sister's support and encouragement, he overcame his disabilities and completed his studies. During his student days in Muzaffarpur, to overcome the difficulties while traveling, he has conceived and built a folding bicycle which can be carried in a bag and assembled quickly in a few minutes. He took admission in BSc (electronics) in 2002 and completed his graduation in2006 . Since 2007, he is working in Pilibhit (U.P) post office as an office assistant.

Since childhood, he has been tinkering with gadgets and making new contraptions. Beside the folding bicycle, he has built a watch in which the owner's name revolves along with the second hand of watch. His future plan is to make a power house in his home to power lights and other devices.

Genesis of innovation

It was the year 1997. Sandeep was studying in ninth standard and faced great Difficulty in going to school using a cane and dragging his impaired left foot. He thought of making a foldable bicycle that he could carry and deploy on demand. He faced ridicule from most people on seeking their advice on its feasibility. However, he was encouraged by his sister to go ahead and try building one working unit. Picking up an old bicycle which had been trashed, he pulled it apart and spent the next 14 months building various configurations so that the foldable cycle assembly could be



Folding Bicycle which can be carried in a bag and assembled quickly in a few minutes.

done quickly and securely. As he was a student, he generally worked on his designs mainly on Sundays and created the first prototype in1998.In this work, he took the assistance of RA engineering works at Aghoria bazaarchowk, Muzaffarpur to fabricate the parts as per his design.

Over the years, he has built three prototype versions to reduce the joinery, weight and assembly time. In 2006, assisted by funding from NIF, he built an improved version with assembly time clocking less than a minute and the handle portion folding first followed by the central frame portion. He has named his product as "SANDSIMA" combining his name with the name of his elder sister (Seema) who has encouraged and supported him over the years.

Product details

The folding bicycle is a complete knockdown (CKD) unit consisting of the front handle set, front and back wheel, pedal and gear arrangement, braking set, frame set with adjustable seat, mudguard and stand. The steering frame, the midriff V section and rear wheel frame section are three units sub-assembles made of tubular 1' diameter sections with receiving male-femalecollar sets with individual tightening levers anchored to the side.The handle set consists of the main frame of 1" diameter steel section and an upperhandle with 10" span and two socket joints, 3.5" and 3.8 " long. The main frame midsection chassis is also made of 1" tubular steel section, provided with spindle and seat set and has five pipe segments ranging from 15" to 19". The seat is conventional type but has a play length of 7 "so that it can be fixed as per user height and seating ergonomics. The front wheel with 20 spokes has a rim inner diameter of 20 "with traditional tyre tread. The rear wheel has same dimensions but has been provided with the stand and socket jointer. The pedalling unit has a outer diameter of 7" and inner diameter of5.2' and provided with a lock key.

Key features

The key features of the folding bicycle include the following :

- The entire bicycle is built in a CKD (complete knockdown) collapsible fashion and can be folded and kept in a 20" long bag
- The user needs less than a minute to assemble the cycle without using any tools, by just locking the tubular frame sections and tightening the right angled bolt levers
- The seat height can be adjusted as required for user comfort while riding.
- The modifications are unobtrusive and there are no sharp angles or projections that may entangle with users' clothes.
- The use of 1' tubular sections and small collars and locking bolts has meant no significant increase in weight of cycle that could affect the cycle speed or efficacy. Costing less than 2500 Rs, this foldable bicycle is an affordable option for lakhs of users with impairment who wish to be independent and mobile. ❑

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