CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
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The ghost of Malthus has been haunting the world and large population is deemed to be the cause of misery, low standard of living, unemployment and many other privations and deprivation under which the world is groaning. Population studies have recently become popular, particularly in developing countries where population explosion takes away most of the fruits of economic development.

Little effort was made in India before independence to check population growth. After independence when the programme was launched for economic development under Five Year Plans, the large population of the country and its unchecked growth rate were considered to be great hurdles in raising the level of income and also the per-capita income needed for a reasonable standard of living. The economists, the sociologists, and the political leaders realised the seriousness of the population problem and more interest was created in studying the subject of demography and its related problems. The present study is one of the results of this growing interest in population studies.

England was the first country where population studies emerged as a separate discipline. Later on, interest in population studies was shown in other European countries. Among
the ancient thinkers were philosophers, academicians, warriors, religious leaders and economists. Their views about population were affected by the conditions existing during their times. These views related to the size of population, quality of people, level of literacy and distribution of population on the basis of sex and age, marital status, the number of spouses that a man could have as also the effect of religion and caste considerations.

In his theory of population, Malthus emphasised number, wherein he pointed out that the growth of population is much higher in comparison to the increase in the means of subsistence (particularly food which is mostly subject to diminishing returns). And, therefore, unless the growth of population is checked, the future of mankind is dark. He advocated balance between the size of the population and the availability of the means of subsistence, and in this context referred to positive checks provided by nature in the form of natural calamities, wars and epidemics which resulted in deaths in large numbers and also preventive checks applied by men including celibacy, late marriages, abstinence and other methods which reduce the birth rate. The quality of the population was emphasised by optimum theorists, like Cannan, Robins, Dalton, Carr Saunders and others. They referred to a reasonable size of the population which provides maximum per-capita income to the community. In this approach, both quantity and quality were considered equally important.
Socialists, including Marx, thought of raising the status of women and wanted to emancipate them from excessive childbearing. Subsequent socialists supported responsible parenthood in the interest of human welfare. Human welfare is affected by a number of factors which are social, political, economic and other. The impact of customs, traditions, religion that the people follow and their psychology affect to a great extent the quality of life that they live.

The population structure and its other characteristics are affected by both nature and man. From nature's side, births and deaths operate through fertility and mortality; while the human aspect affects his way of thinking, decision to move and activities like education, marriage, occupation or vocation he chooses etc. From the academic point of view, fertility, mortality and migration are considered to be the three important variables which affect change in population. The study of population is however multi-disciplinary in nature and needs a wider study in relation to social and behavioural phenomena.

The present study, "Trends in Demographic Behaviour of the Low-Income-Group in Kanpur", has been undertaken with a view to covering all these factors in relation to a group of population generally termed as poor because of the low level of income they have. This section comprises more
than half of India's population. It is ill-fed, ill-bred, ill-educated and lives on the verge of poverty. This group is most prone to multiply quantitatively, and is in greater need of effective control in the rate of growth of population. In most of the developing countries, efforts to check the increase in population are not successful because of the illiteracy of the masses. The poor do not realise that large families are a curse. They think that the larger the family, the more numerous are the avenues to income. The aim of the study is to find out how this group of population can be tackled to contribute its best to arresting the rate of growth of India's population. This will also help in formulating a reasonable population policy. In this context, the growth rate of the general population of Kanpur, the rate of increase in population of the low income group, distribution of this group of population according to sex, age, education etc. have been studied.

The city of Kanpur has been a great seat of industry in northern India and has offered great attraction to people in the neighbouring districts as well as the neighbouring states to migrate to for seeking employment in this city. Migration is a social and economic phenomenon which affects the size and structure of population in a given area. There may be different types of migration but the most important one is movement of people from one place to another within a country. A number of factors may affect this type of
migration, viz. economic, social, political and others. Economic factors, however, are more important and include both 'pull' and 'push' factors. Economically, migration usually takes places from a backward region characterised by inferior economic opportunity to an advanced region with a view to improving conditions of living. This very factor, combined with the process of urbanisation, has been mostly responsible for the low-income-group's migrating to the city of Kanpur. Of these migrants, a large number of people belong to such categories of persons as have sought employment in mills and factories in this great industrial city. A large proportion of these persons come under the low-income-group. Of the 500 families surveyed, 366 (73.2%) families have been found to have migrated to this city for various reasons. The remainder 134 (26.8%) have been found living in this city since long and may be considered to be originally belonging to Kanpur. The heads of the families of these households reported that their parents and grandparents had been living in this city since long. The percentage of total migrants works out to 70.87 per cent of the total population surveyed (Table 3.07). The families that migrated during the last decade, numbered 229 (62.5%) and the major and the reason for their migration was meagre income and unemployment.

The demographic features of the low-income-group population in Kanpur showed several important characteristics. Briefly, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 500 families have been found
residing in slum-localities like Parade, Parmar, Souterganj, Gwaltoli, Jarib Chauki, Sisamsu, Raipurwa, Juhi, etc. and more than 75 per cent families have only a one-room accommodation. Very few families have been reported to be residing in posh localities. Some are living in huts and outhouses attached to some bungalows and some in like quarters. The average number of members in a Low-Income-Group family has been found to be five (Table 4.01). These families belong to different castes; namely, Brahmins, Thakurs, Vaishyas, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims.

Nearly 97.3 per cent of the households covered under the low-income-group survey were Hindus and among the Hindus the majority belonged to the lower and middle castes. Proportions of high caste Hindus and Muslims were significantly low. The mother-tongue of these households has been found to be Hindustani, specially Hindi dialect.

It was observed that 63.9 per cent of them were educationally backward and had not received education even upto the primary standard. Literacy among the females was 23.2 per cent, whereas in the males it was 46.7 per cent (Table 2.18). Every 3 out of 4 such persons had their origin in rural areas.

The category of persons covered under survey belong to the Low-Income-Group and their economic status is low. Hence it will be unreasonable to think of a standard of living higher than the one they are in. Large proportions of
respondents reported that they were daily-wage earners and received more than £. 12/- per day. Wide inter-industries wage variations were observed in building industries. In construction work, the mason was reported to be getting between £. 30/- to £. 35/- per day. These high rates have been possible because of recent hike in the prices of essential commodities. These people have very scanty accommodation and live under insanitary conditions without the facility of electricity. In slum areas one public water tap served about 100 persons. Most of the families used open places as lavatory, only a few using public lavatories. Some hawkers were found to be in possession of radios and transistors. Due to lack of adequate accommodation in their living apartments, these hawkers used to sleep on their thelas on which they vended their goods during day time. On the whole, the people of this group were socially and economically backward.

Our survey revealed that 14.9 per cent of the population of the low-income-group families, were working children in the age-group of 0-18 years and their proportion to the total working population was 25.4 per cent (Table 2.19). The proportion of this age-group was 48.49 per cent in the total general population. The total number of children in this age group was 1,242 (Table 2.15). Nearly, half of them were receiving education and 30.9 per cent of the children were
engaged in helping their parents by contributing to their family income by their money earning activities in hotels, restaurants, teastall, etc. The proportion of the children engaged in income earning activities and also receiving education was 9.09 per cent of the total working population (Table 2.19). For the sake of comparison, the researcher found that the percentage of the working population to the total population was 58.81 per cent. The percentage of male workers was 69.36 per cent, whereas that of the female workers was 45.88 per cent (Table 2.12). The percentage of workers in the organised sector was 37.05 per cent while in the unorganised sector it was 62.95 per cent (Table 2.12).

Of the 2,561 persons covered, the males predominated. Their percentage to the total population was 55.06 per cent whereas the percentage of females to the total population was 44.94 per cent (Table 2.03). The sex ratio, being 816 which was a bit higher than the sex ratio of Kanpur agglomeration which was 804 per 1,000 males in 1981 (Table 2.03).

Nearly 60.7 per cent of the females of the low income-group were married (including widowed/divorced) (Table 4.02) while 95.6 per cent of the females between the ages of 15 and 55 years were married (including widowed/divorced) (Table 4.02). The children born to them during the last 10 years were 1,209. Taking this into account, the average annual birth rate was found to be 47.2 per 1,000
number of persons surveyed. The average annual death-rate was 18.7 per 1,000 number of people surveyed (Table 4.08). So the natural increase in the population of the low-income-group people in the city has been found to be 28.5 per thousand population, or 2.85 per cent. This survival rate is a bit higher than the average increase in the population of India.

From the analysis of fertility, it has been found higher among the Muslims than among the Hindus. Among the Hindus, the lower class have higher fertility than the middle and upper classes. Fertility was higher among the women belonging to the age group of 15 to 25 years (Table 4.07). With the rise in educational attainment, the fertility has been found to have declined consistently. However, in contrast to expectations, the level of income was not found to have negative relationship with the fertility of workers. As compared to mean fertility rate of workers earning below Rs. 6/- per day, the rate was higher for workers with per day earning of Rs. 6/- to 15/-, higher for workers with per day earning between Rs. 16/- and 22/-.

It appears that in the case of the low-income-group, rise in income has fertility promoting effect at least up to per day earning level of Rs. 22/-. It is only above this that fertility was found to decline with the rise in income.
The analysis showed that women of the low-income group, who had passed their reproductive age, had borne an average 5 to 6 children during the whole span of their productive life (Tables 4.06 and 4.07). Fertility was lower among the women residing jointly in one or two room tenements than those living separately in either one- or two-room apartments.

After fertility, mortality is another factor of population change. It is studied to analyse demographic conditions and to determine the changes in the size and structure of population and mortality conditions in future. The statistics regarding death in a population are used for framing public health policies and policies of Life Insurance Companies. The possible factors affecting mortality include physiological, anatomical, natural, physical surroundings, social and economic environment and personal physiological characteristics of a person.

The information regarding deaths is usually obtained through the system of registration of births and deaths. On failure to obtain adequate information through registration, other methods are adopted to measure the mortality. The basic measures are the crude death rate, the infant mortality rate and the expectation of life. Mortality is found to differ for males and females in most countries of the world. In India, females die earlier than males, while in European
countries, females live longer than males. While surveying the demographic behaviour of the low-income-group in Kanpur city, it was noted that the average annual death-rate for females was higher (19.6 per thousand) than for males (17.9 per thousand) (Table 4.09). The causes contributing to this fact were deaths at the time of the first delivery because women of this class could not afford obstetric help in hospitals or in private nursing homes. Poor diet and mal-nutrition after birth was yet another important cause of high death-rate. It was also noted that in comparison to other income-group families, the males mortality of low-income-group families, was high due to occupational diseases, exposure to industrial hazards, excessive liquor drinking, etc. On the whole, people of the low-income-group have higher mortality rate in Kanpur city than the other classes of people who are economically better placed.

The study also revealed that in the low-income-group people of Kanpur, the highest mortality was in the age-group of 60+ years (58.0 deaths per 1,000 population) followed by the age-group 0-9 years (38.1 deaths per 1,000 population) which may be termed as child mortality (Table 4.08). Mortality has been found to differ on the basis of literacy, living conditions and other surroundings. The population problem draws serious attention to the question: "Why does poverty induce people to have greater number of children?" The low-income-group people have no economic
assets other than their own labour and this fact seems to have an important inducement to them to get a larger number of wage earners to increase the income of the family. In some lower castes, children at very low age begin to supplement the income of their family. Here one may agree with the observation of Mehmood Mondani that "people are not poor because they have large families; quite the contrary, they have large families because they are poor". The fact of the matter seems to be that the two factors act in a vicious circle.

During the course of the survey, several other factors came to light which had contributed to the increase of population in this group of people. The causes which operated for the rapid increase of this economically poor class of persons were universality of marriage, early marriage, customs and traditions of the caste to which they belonged, existence of joint family system, religious and superstitious beliefs, illiteracy, indifference to family planning, etc.

Large population results in economic stresses by lowering the per-capita output, unemployment and increasing under-employment. All of these generate social stresses like hunger, high mortality, lower life expectancy, force migration and lead to demoralisation. No doubt, the nation's wealth has increased substantially since the inception of planning but its distribution among the people, in real terms,

is not effective. There is indeed a difference between over-population and population explosion. There is population explosion at a particular stage of time when there is alarming increase in the rate of population. Over-population takes place when population outstrips the existing resources. India may not be said to be over-populated because many resources of India are still lying untapped. Only a small fraction of her resources has been exploited. If there is substantial exploitation of these, India can support a larger size of population than the present one.

Hence in order to avoid the social and economic stresses of population explosion, it is necessary to check its growth. The increase in the rate of the growth of population has in the past been mainly due to the decline in mortality and rise in the average life-span. Rapid spread of education has made people health-conscious. People have come to know the basic causes of diseases and learnt simple remedies for them. They now need not die in large numbers for want of medical care. Infant mortality rate has substantially gone down, pushing up the average age in India. It is doubtless good that the death-rate has gone down; but while on the one hand it has ensured family happiness, the continuance of the old high birth rate has led to population boom which in turn is causing the problem of population explosion.
The facts that we have not been able to reduce the birth-rate substantially. The future growth of population will depend more on the trend of fertility rather than on the trend of mortality. The measures for fertility control are needed to be adopted. But fertility control is a complex phenomenon and various measures are needed to enforce it. These measures may conveniently be divided into two heads: Indirect and Direct. Indirect measures of fertility control aim at the transformation of the society in such a manner as to induce it to favour the 'small family' norm; while the direct measures of fertility control aim at avoiding the union of male and female reproduction cells - sperms and ova.

**Indirect Measures of Fertility Control**

Under indirect measures, efforts should be made to create a favourable environment for preferring and accepting the small family norm for the people. This can be achieved by adopting the following measures:

1. **Improving Literacy**

   A literate couple responds comparatively readily to the call for taking active interest in the larger issues facing the society and the nation. They use their learning to improve their economic status by acquiring knowledge of the outside world. This is how literacy is regarded as a step towards the modernisation of the society.
or the nation. The tragedy in our country is that the poorer the men is, the less in his education. The people surveyed under this thesis are low-income-group people who have not attained that level of education by which they can understand the benefits of a small family and put into practice the population control programmes. The low-income-group people of Kanpur city are, however, enlightened in comparison to their counterparts in rural areas. Yet scepticism and belief in certain superstitions does not make them agreeable to adopting measures to limit the size of the family. For poor people, the rising cost of educating children is yet another factor which is mainly responsible for illiteracy. It is therefore suggested that:

(a) Children of poor people be given free education and they should also be provided with milk and some refreshment in schools at the state expense. Further the families of poor people need to be acquainted with the benefits of small family through education and visual aids in a city like Kanpur. Classes for adult education should be regularly held in localities where the low-income-group people generally reside. Through these classes these people will also learnt the basic principle of health and sanitation.

(b) The subject of 'Population Dynamics' should be introduced in schools and colleges. Though sex education in India is a controversial issue, yet educationists and social reformers are in favour of inclusion of the subject of
Population Dynamics in the syllabus. Sex education is being given through class-room lectures in England. Few Indians oppose this move on the ground that sex education will lead to sex offences as has been the experience in some countries including England. Sex education can be imparted in a modified form understandable by illiterate persons like the group of low-income-people under the scheme of adult education.

(ii) Promotion of Research on Demographic Studies

It will be of benefit if intensive study of the regional problems be made with a view to knowing the social and religious views of the different sections of the population regarding population control techniques. The present study was also undertaken with a view to knowing such views of the low-income-group people residing in Kanpur city. This is necessary for the successful implementation of the fertility control measures. It is therefore necessary to promote research on demographic problems facing the country. I would like to make a strong plea for opening full-fledged Population Research Centres for undertaking research on some of the priority areas. These centres should also take up the problems of the industrial workers and in particular, the slum dwellers (point 10 under the 20 point programme) and also undertake studies based on ESI records to assess the impact of ill health on productivity, and
thus make a beginning in the neglect field of Economics of health.

(iii) **Provision of Adequate Social Security Measures**

It is an admitted fact that the number of children that a couple desires to have is determined by the desire for social security during physical inability, retirement, old age, etc. The present survey of low-income-group people revealed their desire to have more children for having more sources of income as also for having greater security because the size of the family, in this view, denotes strength to combat any aggression on the family. The fact of security appears to be more important for rural areas but as most of the low-income-group people living in Kanpur are migrants from rural areas, they continue to cherish their rural bias even in the urban Kanpur. It is therefore necessary that adequate social security measures be adopted which may guarantee necessary financial help and also security to the poor people to curb their desire to have more children.

(iv) **Raising the Social Status of Women**

The womenfolk are a necessary factor in the implementation of family planning programme. Efforts are needed to awaken their consciousness towards limiting the numbers of their family. If the status of the women is raised they will themselves be careful to maintain their raised standard by keeping their families within reasonable
limits. The policy which has so far been adopted in our country appears to be made oriented wherein it is considered to be the duty of men only to limit the size of the family. Women too should be made conscious of their role in family planning.

(v) Emphasis on Improving Living Conditions of the Poor

The living conditions of the low-income-group people should be improved. So that population control measures may be adopted by them. This fact was also emphasised in the World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. In India poverty is mostly found in rural areas but we should not neglect urban sectors for this purpose on the false hope that the shortage of living space and high cost of living will by themselves create a favourable climate for having small family. Indeed, it is difficult to find whether such pressures have any restraining influence on population growth in the low-income-group families. Some families of the low-income-group people surveyed, have been found to have no link with their original place of birth or residence in rural areas, but because of their poverty their living conditions are of very low standard. The Government should have special programmes to raise the living standards of these urban poor to curb the population growth.
Direct Measures

Among the direct measures for fertility control, the important ones are raising the age of marriage, abortion withdrawal of certain benefits, family planning, compulsory measures under certain conditions, appointment of National Commission on population and seeking global cooperation.

(1) Raising Age of Marriage

At present, under the Child Marriage Restraint Act as amended in 1978 the marriageable age for girls and boys are 18 and 21 years respectively. The Act is no doubt a torch-bearer for social transformation but it is defective in the sense that offences committed under it are not brought to the notice of the Government for proper action. Because of the force of customs and traditions, people are found reluctant to follow the provisions of the Act and this apathy on the part of the public has made the Act a dead letter. Thousands of marriages are solemnised much below the legal age of marriage. Bachelorhood allowance should be introduced to induce the people to remain unmarried. This allowance should start five years after the legal age of marriage and be paid for a period of 15 years or as long as he or she remains unmarried. For determining the rate of the allowance a structure should be prepared in which the rate of allowance should increase after every quinquennial period of bachelorhood.
Children's allowance available to employees in certain establishments should be withdrawn and in its place small-family allowance be granted to those who have either no child or only one child and this allowance be stopped when the second child is born. Under the same scheme, maternity facilities and benefits available to women employees should be withdrawn after the birth of the first child.

(ii) **Family Planning**

Family planning is supposed to be the best mechanism for population control. It regulates the number of pregnancies either by sexual restraints or by contraceptive control. Self-control is no doubt the best method, but it can be exercised only by persons who feel the responsibility and have the will to fulfill it. We cannot expect such restraint from ordinary people. Hence, contraception is the only effective means to reduce the rate of population increase. Taking into consideration the country's vastness, its social traditions and customs, diversity of religion and social values, family planning programme should be converted into a people's movement instead of taking it as a Government programme. In a free society such a programme cannot be forced upon the people but it can only be implemented with their willingness. The problem of population explosion has reached such a critical stage that it has to be tackled on a war footing. In order to
achieve this goal a few suggestions are given below:

- The formulation of a long-term policy for family-planning programme which should be made part and parcel of the Five Year Plans.

- Family planning is designed to save the family from disaster not to destroy it. The need is to create a suitable atmosphere wherein family-planning services be availed of by larger and larger numbers of couples. For this purpose, family-planning camps must needs be organised with all available medical facilities and inducements be provided to couples who get themselves operated for sterilisation purposes. Not only this but better care and follow-up services be rendered to attract more people to adopt family-planning. The family-planning administration should be made efficient and free from corruption. Publicity should be made to counter the misconception and psychological fears of the people regarding family planning programme. Recruitment of well trained medical staff for the implementation of the family planning programmes is also necessary.

- Besides Government efforts, there should be a move for mobilisation of non-Government agencies for the successful implementation of the programme.

- Greater attention is needed to implement the programme in areas where it has not met with success. Propaganda for adopting family planning has to be carried on from door to door.

- Research relating to the problems and difficulties in the implementation of the programme should be developed and all possible encouragement for such research should be provided.
- People must be educated, especially in health problems. Services organised for maternity and child-welfare should be made immune, steps should be taken for the prevention of communicable diseases, and better nutrition, housing, sanitation and supply of pure drinking water should be provided. Health clinic centres need be established in every Gram Panchayat to provide medical facilities for the healthy bringing-up of children, distribution of contraceptives, etc.

- Vasectomy and tubectomy operations should be intensively advocated for couples having three children.

(iii) Compulsory Measures

In a democratic society like ours, there is no place for coercion. There are occasions when people are readily guided by selfish motives based on caste, religion, etc. and fail to appreciate a rational approach to a national problem like the population problem. The interest of the nation is definitely supreme and therefore advantages of the small family can be enforced by coercion. For that purpose, the conduct and service rules of the Government employees should be so amended as to make it obligatory for them to submit an annual report regarding additions to the family by fresh births. This move is sure to have a restraining influence on the employees and frighten them into keeping their families within the desired limit. At the time of the entry into service, the public employee should be asked to execute a bond, promising to keep to the family norm. The bond so executed should contain
penal provisions in case of violation of the prescribed limit of the family. In order to improve the quality of population, it is suggested that all such persons as suffer from transferable diseases should be compulsorily sterilized but in following such a move every care should be taken to avoid frustration and respect religious susceptibilities.

(iv) Appointment of National Commission

India is a country with a vast population. Our rate of growth of population may not be very high but the number we are adding to it every year is alarming. The rapidly growing population is a serious challenge to India’s economic development. Finding jobs for the new entrants in the employment market is a hard task. The benefits of increasing production are consumed by the rise of population due to which we are not able to raise our standard of living at an appreciable rate. The increasing population takes away much of the fruits of development. A nation-wide appreciation of urgency and gravity of this alarming situation therefore has become necessary. For this purpose, it is suggested that a National Commission on population, composed of members selected from eminent sociologists, demographers, economists and other experts be appointed by the Central Government to study the population problem in all its social and economic bearings. This Commission
should determine the nation's population policy and also suggest ways for its implementation.

(v) Seeking Global Cooperation

The population problem is a global one and has to be tackled on the international scale. Population explosion in any region of the world is likely to affect the political, social and economic conditions in the rest of the world. The developed nations and world organisations should take a leading part in solving this gigantic problem on a global basis.

It was a happy augury that the United Nations declared the year 1972 as the Population Year and organised a World Population Conference at Bucharest in 1974. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) also organised a world conference in Rome which discussed the problem in relation to food and agriculture production and urged developed countries to help developing nations in their efforts to solve this problem.

Keeping this fact in mind, it is suggested that all populous countries of the world should seek global cooperation in tackling this problem. In this context, it may be noted that a method or technique found successful in a particular country may not prove successful in another in view of its different historical, social and economic background. India should seek world assistance and utilize
it after studying its own conditions so that the international assistance may be gainfully used to neutralize the drawbacks due to growth of population.

Since migration is another effective component of population change, the concentration of population in Kanpur has been mainly due to the migration process. The effect of migration has been felt both by the permanently settled people and the migrants themselves. It has resulted in increasing the pressure of population in the city and created difficulty in getting accommodation as a result of which most of these poor people are found to be living in slum areas where abominable conditions exist. It has accelerated the problem of unemployment and raised some other economic problems for the city administration.

Had there been a congenial atmosphere and better economic condition in the rural areas, the flow of population from the rural to the urban areas would have been much slower. For a more balanced distribution of population between the rural and the urban areas, it is suggested that opportunities for employment be created in rural areas. This would check the migratory flow. In a developing country like India, it is, however, not easy to develop the rural areas due to paucity of resources. Efforts are, however, being made under the development programme to effect decentralisation of the industries. Programmes like building of link roads, opening of training
centres like Industrial Training Institutes and a host of other infrastructural facilities in the rural areas would help to check the migratory flow to the industrial centres like Kanpur. The district information centres should undertake the work of publicity among the rural folk and give all possible informations about the facilities that the poor people may get from employing themselves in their own places of residence. Diversification of industrialisation will check the movement of poor people to an industrial complex like Kanpur, where a number of difficulties are faced by the migrants. For this purpose, it is suggested that regional planning be stressed and small-scale industries be established in such areas from where people generally migrate in search of employment and better income.