Introduction
CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

The population problem was first seen by Thomas Malthus. Thomas Malthus published his theory on population ("An essay on the principle of population") in the year 1978. He told that population grow geometrically (2, 4, 16) where as food production grow only arithmetically (2, 3, 4, 5). The fundamental issue is obvious that population can and does grow geometrically if allowed.

India, in fact is passing through a critical phase of demographic transition. Its population recorded an increase of about 1.5 times during 1901 - 1951 and 2.8 times during 1951 - 2000.1

During the post - independence period, the population growth rate in the country had been significantly high primarily due to considerable high birth rate and partly due to immigration of population from Bangladesh and Nepal. Presently, 42 thousand babies are born everyday in the country. The yearly total accordingly stands at 15 million.

Here, it is worth mentioning that although India is the first country in the world to launch the family planning programme as early

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1 A billion plus India by Binal Kkar, Guwahati, Wednesday 31, 2000.

[1]
as in 1952 it could not make any significant success in checking the high birth rate as prevalent in many parts of the country.

The Southern States, more particularly Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been quite successful in keeping the natural growth of population low. The total fertility rate here is around 2.1 only. The crude birth rate also remains below 20 per thousand. This is primarily the result of educational advancement. Again, the significantly high female education attainment here has raised the female mean age at marriage above 19.

But the performance of the northern states is far from satisfactory. With a population of 40 percent of the country's total, the weak belt, in northern India, comprising the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh witnesses the worst demographic position in the entire country. With a large proportion of the population being illiterate, more so among the females, the total fertility rate in the weak state is found to be as high as 5 as against 3.6 for the country as a whole\(^2\). The low female literacy rate (below 30 percent) combined with low educational attainment in this part of the country has kept the mean female age at marriage at 17 or even lower. The prevailing low status of women combined with poverty and certain social prejudices.

\(^2\) Economic and political Review, Nov. 08, 2003.
have been responsible for high birth rate here. All these contribute to about 50 percent of the total population increase in this part of the country. This is again clearly reflected in high proportion of children in the BIMARU states. According to the census 1991, the proportion of population in the age group 0 - 14, was found to be as high as 40 percent in these states as against 30 percent in Kerala. Tamil Nadu and 37 percent in the country.

This large number of children will contribute further towards high growth rate of population when they attain the reproductive age. Thus adequate priority needs be given in controlling the high natural growth rate of population in the BIMARU states.

Human resources are the best source of contribution to the development of any country. At the same time when it exceeds the limit, it becomes a problem by itself. Population problem is very severe in the Asian and African countries. Government of these countries are taking various steps to slow down population growth. India is second in the world in population and it has already crossed one million mark. Population rise becomes a problem because of inadequate food, shelter and employment.

**Population of India**

According to population clock, for every minute there are 29
births in India. Next to the people's republic of china, India is the most populous country in the whole world. In 1971, the population was 968 million, and in the 1981 census it crossed the 680 million level. In 1991, it was around 845 millions.

The population of India as the 0 : 00 hours on 1st March 2001 stood at 10,27,01,52,47 persons. With this, India became only the second country in the world after China to cross the one billion mark. India's population rose by 21.34% between 1991 - 2001. The sex ratio (i.e. number of females per thousand males) of population was 933 rising from 927 as at the 1991 census. Total literacy rate in India was returned as 65.38%.

**Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>1027015247</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>531277078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>495738169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Decadal growth 1991 - 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>(+) 21.34%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>(+) 20.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>(-) 21.73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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World's largest democracy to reach one billion person on Independence Day:


China remains the most populous country in the world, with a total population size of 1.27 billion in mid-1999, followed by India. The country with the third largest population in the United States, with 276 million people. It is projected that India will have a larger population than China by the year 2045, when United Nation's projections indicate a total population of India of 1.501 billion and of China of 1.496 billion. India, with a annual population growth rate of 1.65 percent, is the largest contributor to world population growth, accounting for 21 percent of the 78 million annual increment to the world. China contribute about 15 percent to annual world population growth.

By 2016, the population of India (1.22 billion) is expected to be larger than the population of all the more developed countries.\(^4\)

Combined (that is, all the countries of Europe (including Russia), Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the United State). China and India will most likely remain in the list of the members of 1 billion population club. According to the United Nations projections, no other country will reach a population size of 1 billion persons.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Decadal Growth</th>
<th>Change in decadal growth</th>
<th>Average annual experimental growth rate (percentage)</th>
<th>Progressive growth rate over (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>238396327</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>262093990</td>
<td>13697063</td>
<td>-14469240</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
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<td>-772177</td>
<td>24428202</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>278977238</td>
<td>27656025</td>
<td>12027317</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>17.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>318660580</td>
<td>39683342</td>
<td>35719171</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>33.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>361088090</td>
<td>42427570</td>
<td>2744168</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>51.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>439234771</td>
<td>78146681</td>
<td>30778200</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>84.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>548159652</td>
<td>108924881</td>
<td>26244564</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>129.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>686329097</td>
<td>135169445</td>
<td>27889346</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>186.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>843387888</td>
<td>163058791</td>
<td>17568568</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>255.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1027015247</td>
<td>180627359</td>
<td>-2.52</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>330.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1a: Population of India
1901-2001 (in millions)
Fig. 1b: Decadal growth of population 1901-2001

Number above the bars indicate percentage decadal growth
Table (1.1) presents the population of India as recorded in each decadal census since 1901. Some other indicators of growth rate such as decadal growth rate, change in decadal growth average annual exponential growth rate and progressive growth rate, over 1901 during each decade have also been presented in this statement. Thus, the population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century was only around 238.4 million increased by more than four times in a period of hundred year to reach 1027 million at the dawn of the twenty first century. Interestingly, the population of India grew by one and half times in the later half it recorded almost a phenomenal three fold increase. Fig. 1a shows the decadal growth of population for India during 1901 - 2001. India's population on growth during the twentieth century can be characterised and classified into four distinct phase as follows -

1901 - 1921 : Stagnant population
1921 - 1951 : Steady growth
1951 - 1981 : Rapid high growth
1981 - 2001 : High growth with definite signs of slowing down

**India in a world population**

According to estimate published by the United States Census Bureau, the world population is 6.5 billion (6500000000) on Feb. 25,
Fig. 1c: India in World Population

- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- India
- Japan
- Brazil
- Bangladesh
- Indonesia
- Russian Fed.
- USA
- Other Countries

Population shares: 40.12% (Nigeria), 21.03% (India), 4.63% (USA), 3.49% (Russian Fed.), 2.8% (Brazil), 2.58% (Japan), 2.42% (Pakistan), 2.13% (Bangladesh), 2.09% (Indonesia), 1.84% (Other Countries).
2006. It is estimated that by 2012. According to Census Bureau projections, world population will increase from its present level of 5.8 billion person to almost 6.1 billion in 2000 and 7.6 billion person by 2020. This increase will occur despite a slowdown in the rate of growth from the current annual rate of 1.5 percent to less than 1 percent over the next quarter century.

**Half the world's population lives in six countries**

China, India, United States, Indonesia, Brazil and Russia are the most populous countries in the world today, but shifts in ranks will occur over the coming 25 years as some of today's smaller high-fertility countries overtake currently larger ones. By 2020, Nigeria and Pakistan will have dropped off. Although India will not overtake China in the next quarter century, it will add more people — 337 million compared to China's increase of 207 million. Every ten years, since 1974, the world community religiously assembles to review the status of population growth, its distribution and movement at the global level. Most of us are well aware why there is great concern about the population explosion and its consequences. It is said Asia accounts for 60% of the total world's population, while India alone contributes about 16%.

**Indian Population Census (1991 - 2001)**

The 1991 final census count have India a total population of 846,302,688. However, estimates of India's population vary widely. [9]
According to the population division of the United Nation economies and social affairs, the population had already reached 866 million by mid 1993 with a 1.9 percent annual growth rate. The United States Bureau of the census, assuming an annual population growth rate of 8.1 percent, put India's population in July 1995 at 936,545,814. These higher projections merit attention in light of the fact that the planning commission had estimated a figure of 844 million for 1991 while preparing the eight five-year plan (Fy 1992 - 96).

India accounts for some 2.4 percent of the world's landmass but is home to about 16 percent of the global population. The magnitude of the annual increase in population can be seen in the fact that India adds almost the total population of Australia or Sri Lanka every year. A 1992 study of India's population notes that India has more people than all of Africa and also more than North America and South America together. Between 1947 and 1991, India's population more than doubled. Throughout the twentieth century, India has been in the midst of a demographic transition. At the beginning of the century, epidemic diseases periodic epidemics and famines kept the death rate. By the mid-1990s the estimated birth rate had fallen to twenty-eight per 1,000 and the estimated death rate had fallen to ten per 1,000. Clearly, the future

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configuration of India's population (indeed the future of India itself depend on what happens to the birth rate. Even the most optimist projection do not suggest that the birth rate could drop below twenty per 1,000 before the year 2000. India's population is likely to exceed the one billion mark before 2001 census.

The upward population in India spiral began in the 1920's and is reflected in intercensal growth increments. Population increased some 10 percent in the period from 1921 to 1931 and 13 to 14 percent in the 1930's and 1940. Between 1951 and 1961, the population rose 21.5 percent. Therefore a slight slowing of the increase was experienced from 1971 to 1981, the population increased by 24.7 percent, and from 1981 to 1991, by 23.9 percent.

The density of population in India has risen concomitantly with the massive increase in population. In 1901 India counted some seventy-seven person per square kilometer. In 1981 there were 216 persons per square kilometer-up almost 25 percent from the 1981 population density. India's average population density is higher than that of any other nation of comparable size. The highest densities are not only in heavily urbanized regions but also in areas that are mostly agricultural.

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The result of the 1991 census revealed that around 221 million or 26.1 percent of India's population lived in urban areas of this total, about 138 million people or 16 percent, lived in the 299 urban agglomerations. In 1991 the twenty four metropolitan cities accounted for 51 percent of India's total population living in class one urban centers, with Bombay and Calcutta the largest at 12.6 million and 10.9 million, respectively.

In the early 1990's growth was the most dramatic in the cities of central and southern India. About twenty cities in those two regions experienced a growth rate of more than 100 percent between 1981 and 1991. Areas subject to an influx of refugees also experienced noticeable demographic changes. Refugees from Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka contributed substantially to population growth in the regions in which they settled less dramatic population increases occurred in areas where Tibetan refugee settlements were founded after the Chinese annexation of Tibet in the 1950's.

The vast majority of Indians, nearly 625 million or 73.9 percent in 1991 lived in what are called villages of less than 5000 people or in scattered hamlets and other rural settlements. The states with proportionately the greatest rural populations in 1991 were the states of Assam (88.9 percent), Sikkim (90.9 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (91.3 percent). Those with the smallest rural population proportionately were the states of Gujarat (65.5 percent), Maharashtra (61.3 percent), Goa (58.9
percent) and Mizoram (53.9 percent). Most of the other states and the union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Island were near the national average.

Two other categories of India's population that are closely scrutinized by the national census are the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The greatest concentration of scheduled caste members in 1991 lived in the states of Andhra Pradesh (10.5 million, or nearly 16 percent of the states population). Tamil Nadu (10.7 million or 19 percent), Bihar (12.5 million or 14 percent), West Bengal (16 million or 24 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (24.3 million or 21 percent). Together these and other scheduled caste members comprised about 139 million people or more than 16 percent of the total population of India. Scheduled tribe members represented only 8 percent of the total population (about 68 million). They were found in 1991 is the greatest number in Orissa (7 million or 23 percent) of the states population Maharashtra (7.3 million or 9 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (15.3 million or 23 percent). In proportion however the population of states in the North-East had the greatest concentration of scheduled tribe members. For example, 31 percent of the population of Tripura, 34 percent of Manipur, 64 percent of Arunachal Pradesh, 85 percent of Meghalaya 88 percent of Nagaland and 95 percent of Mizoram were scheduled tribe

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members. Other heavy concentrations were found in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 79 percent of which was composed of scheduled tribe members and Lakhadweep, with 94 percent of its population being scheduled tribe members.

According to the census 2001, the population of India (10277015247) is 16.87% of world population of this 51.73% (531277078) are males and 48.27% (495738169) are females. Population of Kerala comes to 3.10% (31838619) of the population of India. Out of this, 48.58% (15468664) are males and 51.42% (16369955) are females. The population of India which was 23.83 crores in 1901 increased by 78.87 crores with in 100 years. Indian population reached 100 crores on 11 June, 2000. One among every six persons of world population is an Indian.

Table 1.2: Following table showing population growth in India.\(^9\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population (in crores)</td>
<td>Decadal growth %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>36.10</td>
<td>13.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>43.92</td>
<td>21.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>54.82</td>
<td>24.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>68.63</td>
<td>24.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>84.34</td>
<td>23.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>102.70</td>
<td>21.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^9\) Census of India, Govt. of India — Ministry of Home Affair, Official Website.

\(^{10}\) Census Report 2001, India Series 1 and Series 33, Kerala Provisional Population Totals.
Population growth India - Kerala (1951 - 2001)

In India 29 children are born in every one minute. Due to the rapid increase of population, we have to explore more resources for economic development. The factors such as birth rate, death rate and immigration which influence the population. Some other factors of population are related to the economic scenario.

In the table 1.2 the population growth during 1951 is 36.1 crores and decadal growth increases 13.3%. In the same period population of Kerala was 1.35 and decadal growth was 22.82%. In the year 1961 and 1971 the population growth were 43.92 crores and 54.82 crores and the decadal growth were 21.6% and 24.8% and on the other hand in the same time period Kerala's growth was 1.69 and 2.13 crores and decadal growth were 24.76% and 26.29%. In the year 1981 and 1991 the population were 68.63 crores and 84.34 crores and the decadal growth were 24.66% and 23.86% and the Kerala's growth were 2.55 crores and 2.91 crores and decadal growth were 19.24% and 14.32%. In the year 2001 the population growth was 102.70 billion and decadal growth was 21.34% whereas Kerala's population was 3.18 crores and decadal growth was 9.42%.
In the table 1.2, we have discussed population growth of Kerala along with India because Kerala has 12th place in population of India, this state has lowest population growth rate and females are more than males. This state also has highest literacy rate.

Table 1.3: 2001 overall statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>1027015247</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>+ 21.34%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>531277078</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>+ 20.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>495738169</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>+ 21.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>933</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1.4: Child population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>157863145</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>15.42%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>81911041</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>15.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>75952104</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>15.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>927</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2001 Population (0 - 6 years) Percentage of population (0 - 6 years)

Population Growth Trends

The population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century, was only around 238 million increased by over four times to

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11 2001 Census of India.
12 2001 Census of India.
reach 1027 million at the dawn of the twenty first century interestingly, the population grew by one and half times in the first half of the twentieth century, while in the next fifty years it recorded a phenomenal three-fold increase. In absolute terms, the population of India during the decade 1991 - 2001 increased by a whopping 180.6 million more than the estimated population of Brazil, the fifth most populous country in the world.

**How Fast is India Growing**

India with about 2.4% of the land area in the world contain about 16% of the population of the world. According to the provosional results of census of India 2001, the population of India as on 1st March 2001, was 531 million males and 496 million females India is thus the Second Country in the world after China to cross the one billion mark. It is now estimated that by 2050, India will most likely overtake China to become the most populous country on the earth with 17.2 percent population living here (UN population division, world population prospects: The 1998 Revision). The United Nations has estimated that world population grew at an annual rate of 1.4 percent during 1990 - 2000, China registering a much lower annual growth ratio of population of 1 percent as compared to that for India at 1.93 percent during 1991 - 2001.
The density of the population in India has climbed up from 261 per square kilometer in 1981 to 967 per square kilometer in 1991. This is ten times greater than the density in the United States (26 per square kilometer) and 2.5 times greater than the density in China\textsuperscript{13} (109 per square kilometer). The birth rate in India (31 per thousand people) is greater than that of China (20 per thousand people). If this trend continues India will beat up China by 2025 A.D., making India the most populous nation in the world. In 2025 A.D. India will have 1591 million people and China 1554 million people.

Only five countries in the world — China, USA, Brazil, Indonesia and United USSR have more people than U.P. (145 million), which is one of the 28 states in India. Every year the total population of Australia, is added to the population of India. One out of every seven people in the world lives in India. So if India, which is open for the gospel, is reached, then every seventh person in the world will be reached. The death rate in India is 8.39 million per year, this means that 23,000 people everyday 958 people every hour or 16 people every minute\textsuperscript{14} pass into a Christ less eternity. Are we "moved with compassion for them because they are weary and scattered".


Structure and Dynamics

Although India occupies only 2.4% of the world's land area, it supports over 15% of the world's population. Only China has a larger population. Almost 40% of Indians are younger than 15 years of age. About 70% of the people live in more than 550,000 villages and the remainder in more than 200 towns and cities. Over thousand of years of its history, India has been invaded from the Iranian plateau, Central Asia, Arabia, Afghanistan and the West; Indian People and culture have absorbed and changed these influences to produce a remarkable racial and cultural synthesis.

Religion, Caste and language are major determinants of social and political organization in India today. The government has recognized 18 languages as official. Hindi is the most widely spoken. Although 83% of the people are Hindu, India also is the home of more than 120 million Muslims, one of the world's largest Muslim population. The population also includes Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis.

The caste system reflects Indian occupational and religiously defined hierarchies. Traditionally, there are four broad categories of castes, including a category of outcastes, earlier called "untouchables" but now commonly refined to as "dalits" with in these broad categories
there are thousands of castes and subcastes, whose relative states varies from region to region. Despite economic modernization and laws countering discrimination against the lower end of the class structure. The caste system remains an important source of social identification for most hindus and a potent factor in the political life of the country.

India is marching towards a state of over population, probably because of its large population and high growth rate, among other reasons, it has not been successful both in human development and economic development fronts. India occupies as low as 138th position in the world in terms of human development index. In spite of the prevailing economic inequalities, the per capita annual income in the country is also as low as $350. There is no need to say that the population pressure will badly affect the per capita availability of arable land, water for drinking and other purposes and housing. More than one third of the country's population is estimated to be under the poverty line. These poverty-stricken people are after under nourisher. Again, although two-third of the population in the country is engaged in agriculture, it can hardly meet the requirements of the growing population. Over utilization of limited land and other natural resources, on the other hand, may likely to augment the problems on many other fronts. The growing problems like deforestation, soil degradation,
drought, desertification, floods, pollution, etc. give testimony to unsustainable development processes in the country.

India has the largest concentration of the poor, the illiterate the sick and the unemployed in the world. In social front, expansion of slums, decline of open space in the large urban centres and cities are another dimensions of the problems resulting from large scale rural to urban migration in search of job opportunities. Besides, the politicians are also deriving benefit out of the ever-increasing growth of a significant proportion of ignorant and poverty-stricken population in the country.

India also has enormous problem with over-population. The current population is over a billion, but India does not have the large land mass that China has India is experiencing major problems with declining water tables due to over-extraction beyond sustainable yield. India is building desalination plants to solve this problems\textsuperscript{16}. Because India has the same population density as Japan, some have claimed that India's poverty is caused by under development, not over population. Some problems associated with human over population:

- Inadequate fresh water for drinking as well as sewage treatment and effluent discharge. Some countries use desalination to solve the

\textsuperscript{16} Economic and Political Weekly, November 8, 2003. [21]
problem of water shortage.

- Depletion of natural resources, especially fossil fuels increased levels of air pollution, water pollution, soil contamination and noise pollution. Once a country has industrialized and become wealthy, a combination of government regulations and technological innovation causes pollution to decline substantially, even as the population continues to grow.

- The chronic inability of many of these countries to escape from the "Malthusian trap" via economic growth exceeding population growth. Many third world countries simply lack the economic infrastructural base to provide a rising standard of living for most of their people, especially in Africa, the Arab Word, and parts of Latin America.

- Changes in atmospheric composition and consequent global warming. Irreversible loss of arable land and increases in desertification. Deforestation and desertification can be reversed by adopting property rights, and this policy is successful even while the human population continues to grow.

Poverty coupled with inflation in some regions and a resulting low level of capital formation. Poverty and inflation are aggravated by bad governance and bad economic policies. Many countries with high
population densities have eliminated absolute poverty and kept their inflation rate very low. Literacy rate especially female literacy is one which influences fertility in a major way. Though some progress has been achieved on the literacy front in the last decade, still about 30 crore people in India can neither read nor write.

Illegal and legal immigration to the developed world on an unprecedented scale, creating an unprecedented demographic and political problem in Europe and the United States. Even the controlled and legal migration of talented and well-educated people from the third world to the developed world denudes it of its limited skills base. Increased incidence of hemorrhagic fevers and other infections, disease from crowding, lack of adequate sanitation and clean potable water and scarcity of available medical resources. Starvation, malnutrition or poor diet with ill health and diet deficiency diseases. Famine is aggravated by poverty. Rich countries with high population densities do not have famine. Elevated crime rate due to drug cartels and increased theft by people stealing resources to survive\(^\text{17}\). Conflict over scarce resources and crowding, leading to increased level of warfare.

1(a) Methodology

Present study will base on secondary data. Data will be compiled from various magazine, journals, reports and population census, New Delhi, views on population growth will be collected from personal

\(^{17}\) Economic and Political Weekly November 8, 2003.

[23]
direct interviews of different sections of the society and from some important political leaders.

1(b) Objectives of the study

(1) To study the composition of population in the context of 1991 and 2001 population census of India.

(2) To study the causes of high population growth rate of India.

(3) To study the government policies regarding population rise.

(4) To study the social impact of population.

(5) To study the impact of population economic development.

(6) To study the impact of population in Indian politics.

(7) To suggest measure to check the population.

(8) Summary and conclusion.

Conclusion

Few countries are as complex as India. A visitor to Delhi or Bangalore might leave with the impression that India is rapidly becoming a middle-class country with a consumption oriented lifestyle. But India remains an essentially rural country steeped in centuries old social and religious traditions. In its modern cities large proportion of the population live in slums. Still progress on many fronts have been remarkable, if uneven, particularly in light of its vast population. Agricultural production quadrupled during a remarkable
transformation of its agricultural sector in the 1960s and 1970s (the "green revolution"), which along with expanded transportation and communications networks have made famines nearly obsolete. Nonetheless, almost 50 percent of Indian children are malnourished. The expansion of the health care system has raised life expectancy at birth to 63 years from less than 40 years in 1950. But less than half of births are attended by skilled health personnel, and maternal mortality is still high.

During the 20th century, India's population growth awoke from the doldrums as real progress was made against disease and hunger. The quarter-billion of 1900 became the 1 billion of 2000. Slowing such unheard of growth became a national priority from the nation's beginning and India can count many successes in that effort. But India's wide social diversity has resulted in very different demographic situations — persistently high fertility in the Hindi Belt compared with below — replacement fertility in Kerala, for example — success in one area has not been matched by success in others.

India's future population size will depend upon what happens in the heavily populated north. In 2000, India's population reached one billion. Now the question of 2 billion arises will India become the world's first "double billionaire". Such a development is well within mathematical possibility. That is one of India's most compelling future issues.