

Population Growth and Economic Development of a Country

When population grows faster than GNP, the standard of living of the people does not improve. In fact rapid population growth has been obstructing economic growth in developing countries like India where since 1951 population has been growing at a relatively high rate.

In Table 1, we present population growth in India. It will be seen that since 1951, population has been growing at about 2 per cent or more. In other developing countries such as Pakistan Bangladesh, rate of population has been greater than that of India.

However, it may be noted that over-population and rapid the population rate is especially an Asian problem. The developing countries of Latin America and Africa do not face this population explosion problem.

But for developing countries like India, population growth has to be checked if gains of development are not be nullified by it. It is worthwhile to note here that it is only China which has brought population growth rate quite will under control by adopting one child per family norm.

Population Growth in India since 1951:

Year	Population(in million)	Annual Ave. Growth %
1951	361	-
1961	439	1.96
1971	542	2.20
1981	683	2.22
1991	843	2.14
2001	1028	1.93
2011	1210	1.6

A democratic country like India cannot adopt coercive methods to control population. But, to show how rapid population growth retards economic development, it is necessary to mention that by economic development we mean not only increase in national income (GNP) or per capita income, but also reduction in unemployment as a result of the growth of employment opportunities and reduction in poverty and inequalities of income.