

# Population Growth of India

The fastest rise in the population of India was during the period of 1951 to 1981, in which the population went from 36 crores in 1951 to 70 crores in 1981. During this 30 year period, population increased around 34 crores, which is the fastest rise in the history of population statistics. Death rate has reduced due to modern health and medical facilities and it has reduced to around 8 persons per thousand whereas; birth rate has not reduced at the same pace. That is why; this period from 1951 to 1981 is known in India as the period of **Population Explosion**.

## Causes of Population Growth in India

### 1. Illiteracy and Unawareness

In India around 36% males and 61% females are illiterate. Neither do they have full knowledge about family planning nor do they know about the consequences of excessive childbirth. This is one of the reasons for rising population.

### 2. Poverty

Due to poverty, the population of the poor families has increased in our country. People live in slums, use their children as a tool to earn money, hence they always try to increase the number of children in their family.

### 3. Birth Rate

In India the average age for marriage is very low, compared to the other nations of the world. This is also a reason for population explosion.

#### **4. Death Rate**

In India the death rate from the year 1900 to 1910 was around 35 to 50 persons per thousand, which is now reduced to only 7 to 8 persons per thousand. This has become possible in our country by availability good and hygienic food, pure drinking water, facilities of hospitals, better sanitation, medical facilities at affordable rates and control over malnutrition, Pneumonia, Cholera, epidemics etc. Along with that child death rate has reduced to 69 per thousand, compared to around 218 per thousand in the years from 1916 to 1920.

#### **5. Indifference towards Family Planning**

Illiterate people living in rural areas are indifferent towards family planning. They feel fear towards even the name of 'Operation'. They are not interested in the use of even the simplest and cheapest means of family planning.

#### **6. Lack of Social Security**

Due to lack of social security system in India, every parent seeks shelter at the time of crises and for their old age, in their children. For the fear of death of their child in childhood, they give birth to many children, so that at least one of them would be the support of their old age.

#### **7. Arrival of Refugees**

Population has increased rapidly in part due to continuous arrival of refugees in India. At the time of division of India and Pakistan in 1947, more than 1 crore refugees came to India. In 1962 at the time of attack by China, a huge number of Tibetan refugees came to India. Similarly, in 1971, more than 1 crore Bangladeshi refugees came to India and even

today this problem is still continuing. Apart from this, continuous arrival of Nepalese is also still continuing. More than 5 lakh Tamil refugees had come to India due to Sri Lankan Tamil problem. All these are responsible for increase in population.

## Effects of Rapidly Increasing Population

Even after 72 years of independence, the scenario of our country is not good, due to over population. Some major impacts of the high population are as follows:

- **Unemployment:** Generating employment for a huge population in a country like India is very difficult. The unemployment rate is thus showing an increasing trend.
- **Manpower utilisation:** The number of people in disguised unemployment is on the rise in India due to economic depression and slow business development and expansion activities.
- **Pressure on infrastructure:** Development of infrastructural facilities is not keeping pace with the growth of population. The result is lack of effective transportation, communication, housing, education, healthcare etc. There has been an increase in the number of slums, overcrowded houses, traffic congestion etc.
- **Resource utilisation:** Land areas, water resources, forests are over exploited. There is also a scarcity of resources.
- **Increased costs:** Food production and distribution have not been able to catch up with the increasing population and hence the cost of food and other items have increased. Inflation is the major consequence of over population.