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# Impact of Population Education on Population Explosion: An Indian Perspective

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## Abstract

Population education is a very complex and sensitive issue. Common people have various incorrect and baseless ideas about it. Therefore, to make population education interesting, engaging and effective, all these misconceptions and baseless ideas must be removed. Population education is a weapon to remove misconceptions and also make awareness about population explosion. The teacher cannot present the concepts of population education to the students because it involves various issues related to religion and values. Therefore, the job of the population education teacher is not only to transmit information and knowledge, but he has to present the issues to the student as problems related to his environment. Population education gives students that power to resolve all the related issue of population explosion. This paper is an attempt to speculate into the causes and control of population through population education.

**Keywords:** Population Education, Population Explosion, Population in India, Scope of Population Education.

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## Introduction

Population growth rate in the present world is the biggest obstacle in the way of improving the quality of human life. The population of the world today exceeds 700 crores. India's population has more than tripled since independence in 1947 till today. The current population of India is about 1,380,004,385 crores. But suitable land/houses for living, agricultural land suitable for food production, factories, suitable infrastructure for education and health services have not increased in that proportion. As a result, only in our country after independence, despite the implementation of the ten five-year plan, the number of illiterates is increasing, the number of premature maternal and child deaths is frightening, and the rate of malnutrition is shameful. So there is a transitional period in terms of demographic structure. As a result of economic development and application of science-based technology, there has been a remarkable change in the population structure of India. The main feature of our agrarian society is the very high rate of birth and death. With the growth and development of the economy, the death rate has come under control, but the birth rate is yet to come under control. As a result, the demographic picture that is being reflected in our society is population explosion. Since the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there has been a new global awareness of population growth. Low standard of living, illiteracy, poor health, malnutrition, imbalance of natural environment etc. are not only the result of population growth but also the main reason for population growth. Since the 1970s, therefore, the need to educate people about its causes, control measures, etc., has been felt. Population Education originated from this need.

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## Concept of Population Education

From the seventies of the nineteenth century, the concept of population education was developed based on a negative way of thinking. A group called the Club of Rome (1968-1972) propagated this negative thinking as an organizing theory. According to them, the huge population growth of the poor and underdeveloped countries of the world is the main cause of all kinds of environmental pollution and destruction of natural resources. The Club of Rome mainly identified countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America as vulnerable to this scourge and advised them to control their populations. According to the club - the huge population of poor countries is dangerous for civilization. But hopefully, most economists, demographers and environmentalists do not support this theory of rich countries. According to them - the daily needs of poor people are very insignificant. But the resource value of the manual labour they expend in the production of pollution-free products is infinite. If the education of the backward people can be made possible by improving the health and quality of life, environmental protection and good use of resources, the population will also be naturally controlled. There is definitely a need for regulations, legislation, etc., but the best approach is to improve the standard of living. The essence of public education is the creation of mental models and values with the help of population growth issues that will give birth to a new outlook on one's own life, childbearing and rearing, thereby eliminating the need for any separate efforts to control population. Public education should be considered based on this positive concept.

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## Nature of Population Education

The word 'population education' contains two words - population and education. By population we mean the number of people living at a given time and in a given territory. And the process and method of raising awareness of social, economic, political, health, educational, human relations, values, etc. is population education. Simply put, population education is the collection of all knowledge related to the nature, growth and control of population. Through population education the student groups, on the one hand, the nature and significance of population and on the other hand its own and surrounding environment and the various forces of the world can understand the relationship of population. And based on this, you can develop special values about life. From this definition derives all theoretical contributions to population education.

- The real purpose of population education is to inculcate a permanent and special value about the quality of life.
- Developing these values requires understanding the interrelationship of many elements.
- To understand the nature and significance of population in relation to each other.
- Many consider population education to be synonymous with sex education or family planning education. But in reality population education helps us to explore and discover the interaction relationship between population and education. Population education is that part of the whole education system which makes us aware of the processes and consequences of population growth and accordingly motivates us to take action for the betterment of society and environment. Population education is therefore by nature an important endeavour within the overall educational effort. This effort makes mankind try to control the population in order to preserve its existence. Makes everyone aware for healthy and normal living. Different organizations and researchers have conceptualized demographic education from different perspectives. They are what doctors consider population education to be an effort to limit family size. In order to keep the family size small, people's attitude needs to be changed and birth control should be done. For this purpose, population education is to increase the awareness among the common people in the transformation of various medicinal information useful materials.
- In the opinion of economists and sociologists, population education is deeply related to the country's development, financial growth, self-reliance, productivity, etc. The progress of the individual as well as the society depends on the strategy of population control and population development.
- The NCERT draft curriculum states that — Students at all levels will have the right to know what changes occur as a result of changing family patterns and controlling national population. This knowledge will be helpful in the way of family control, economic development and welfare of the people.

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## Scope of Population Education

The scope of population education is very broad and extensive. Population education is not only limited to education, but this education is detailed in every aspect of the life of all the people of the country. The topics covered in its scope are

- Formation of knowledge and understanding of the population situation of the student in his own country and the world as a whole.
- Development of the student's ability to make decisions related to the size and population of his family, based on the population policy adopted by the student's own group and the country.
- Helping the student acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and evaluation skills related to population.
- Students need to be informed about the relationship between birth rate and death rate and population growth in the context of their own country. As groups of students move from school to college or university, they will acquire an understanding of the demographics of different states, countries, and the world.
- Proper understanding of human reproductive techniques should be developed. This concept will be formed at different levels based on the interests and results of the students.
- To help students develop a clear understanding of health and nutrition issues related to childbearing. Students will be introduced to various well-established and tested facts of medical science. For example- (a) Mother's health relationship with having children at an early age. (b) Benefits of maternal nutrition in the nutrition of the child and its relation to the mother's good health etc. To develop awareness about the relationship between family structure and size and quality of life development
- Understanding the significance of population characteristics and related policies for the socio-economic development of the country.
- Students' familiarity with their country's population policies and family planning programs.

### ***Relation between Population and Environment***

What is the relationship between population control and environment this issue is one of the most discussed topics in population education! Because the existence of the biosphere depends on the natural balance or Ecology and on the food-consumer chain. Knowing how population growth disrupts that chain can help everyone strive for population control. On the other hand, they will take initiatives to carefully protect the food-consumer chain and control the population. Finally, the scope of population education is so wide that any related subject can be included in it.

### ***Population Explosion***

Population explosion is the most difficult and complex problem of India. The word '*population*' is derived from the Latin word '*populous*', it means '*people*'. The population of any country is a valuable resource. But its excessive growth is a terrible problem. The population is growing it has had an adverse effect on the earth's carrying capacity. The population clock was started in October 1987 when it reached 500 crore. It was a matter of concern then. This excessive population growth is called Population Explosion. Experts estimate that India will overtake China in population by 2030. India will become a country of 160 crores within the year. This excessive population growth is called population explosion. This figure of India's population growth is pointing to population explosion. Recently population growth has become a serious problem in India.

The following points are becoming evident as a result. For example-

- One out of every six people in the world is an Indian. If the rate of population growth is not controlled, one in five Indians will die.
- Every 15 days Indian population is growing by a million.
- The total population growth rate of 49 percent is largely confined to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Every year, three times as many couples enter this diameter than the number of couples that pass the breeding age limit. The fertility rate of newly married couples is three times higher than that of previous couples.
- People's lives will be danger if the rate of incising the population like this. The medical and health services sector will be wrecked throughout the country. Education and training etc. Will become very expensive. Technology and technical knowledge will only become the focus of rich class.

In short, the severe food pressure that will result in half of the national population falling below the threshold.

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### **Causes of Population Explosion**

#### ***A gap between annual birth rate and death rate***

- Currently in India the death rate has decreased due to the improvement of the medical system, but the birth rate is not decreasing at that rate. So the population is increasing rapidly.
- The religious and social attitudes of various communities in India are one of the reasons for population explosion.
- More children are born due to financial security or security of the family. As a result, the population increases.
- Apart from that, the income increases as a result of economic development. As a result of improved nutrition and health systems, death rates are decreasing, but birth rates are not decreasing at the same rate. So the population is increasing.

#### ***Child marriage***

Child marriage is legally banned in India. But by pointing a thumb at the law, girls are forced to marry at a very early age in various provinces, especially in rural areas. The average age of marriage is gradually being raised, yet many women are forced to marry at a young age when they are not physically, mentally or socially ready. Although the law has slightly reduced the rate of child marriage, it has not stopped. Naturally, population inflation is happening in India.

#### ***Lack of education***

Severe lack of education is one of the main causes of population explosion in India. A society where woman are educated at a higher rate. The birth rate of children is also limited there. It is because educated girls are aware of the legal age of marriage, self-esteem, child birth rate, causes of infant mortality etc. Education brings awareness among them, thereby motivating them to control the population. The overall public education or literacy rate in India is more than 65 percent. As the education rate increases, the population rate decreases.

### *Attitudes towards family planning*

Family planning generally refers to limiting the number of children a couple has. Population planning and birth control programs are not the same. But in our country it means synonymous. Most of India's plans are not properly implemented. Family planning is no exception. Religious bigotry and superstitions among different communities become a major obstacle in the effective implementation of family planning. They consider child birth as a blessing. Illness, poor education, misconceptions and ignorance about family planning are responsible for this.

### *Other causes*

Poverty in both cause and effect of population explosion, more children mean less education, and less education means less consciousness. As the number of children increases, the opportunities for education will decrease. Again, the less the opportunities for education - the less the development of consciousness. In a country like India where the socio-economic crisis is extreme, population control is very important.

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## **Effects of Population Explosion**

As the population increases at a huge rate, it has a very adverse effect on the quality of life. Despite the massive agricultural and industrial development in independent India, the per capita income (per capital income) remained very low. Due to this population explosion in India, a large part of the population is homeless, 17 crore people do not have access to clean drinking water, 29 crore people are illiterate, 53 percent of children are sick due to malnutrition. Because of this - India ranks 135<sup>th</sup> in the World Human Development Index. As a result of this population pressure, the number of crimes has increased in the urban areas, violence, theft, injuries and fights have become a daily occurrence. If the population continues to grow at this rate, it is not uncommon for public transport systems, electricity services, education and other essential services to collapse in the near future.

After all, as a result of this population explosion, a huge army of unemployed, criminal and hungry people is being formed, they are creating a terrible situation in all the social, economic and political spheres of India.

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## **Measures to Control Population Explosion**

- Controlling population explosion is very important to maintain balance between demand and supply.
- One of the most important ways to control population explosion is to prevent premature motherhood at any cost— to check children producing children Family planning is an important way to prevent population explosion. It is the way to achieve the welfare of the state
- It is absolutely necessary to develop a scientific outlook among the members of the population in the era of modern industrial civilization. This scientific approach will remove the narrowness of human mind. They will develop as liberal minded citizens. It will transform the Indian society into an ideal society. And the state will become a modern state - a state will be a modern state Modernization depends on the growth and development of knowledge. The development of organized and disciplined scientific knowledge depends on education. Therefore, education plays an essential role in solving the problem of population explosion. If the population can be fully controlled, it will be possible to solve many problems arising out of population explosion.

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## **Objectives of Population Education**

According to NCERT, the general objectives of population education can be divided into four main categories

### *Objectives related to population growth*

The objectives under this category are to educate the young generation on various aspects of population growth, namely causes, nature, influences etc. inform about

- To inform about the birth rate and death rate and develop a scientific view about it.
- To inform about government population policy.
- To discuss in detail the causes of population growth.

### *Objectives related to the impact of population growth*

Through these objectives, to clearly inform the young generation about the impact of population growth on the quality of life, the impact of population growth on the social, economic and political conditions of the country.

- Explain how uncontrolled population explosion can slow down the development of the country.
- To make aware of the relationship between population growth and disease spread.

- To discuss the relationship between controlled population and financial development.

### ***Objectives related to population control***

These objectives will inform the younger generation about

- The importance of birth control.
- It will help in gaining knowledge about various strategies of population control.
- Will encourage keeping family size small.
- It will help to understand the needs of small families and communicate them to others.
- Inform population control policies

### ***Population and environmental objectives***

Through these objectives to inform the young generation about the demographic and economic as well as social environment.

- To help in understanding the link of water, air soil and noise pollution with population growth.
- To inform about the decline in quality of education and health services with population growth.
- Explain how uncontrolled population growth adversely affects natural resources.
- To inform about how population growth disturbs the various ecosystems of the environment causing lack of balance and endangering the existence of human species.

NCERT experts urge everyone to be aware of the above four main objectives. Population explosion is the biggest obstacle to the development of our country. Every person of the country, every family should realize that – to improve the quality of life, the family should be kept small and limited. If it is possible to create this idea among the students from a young age, the future generation can get rid of the problem of population growth.

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## **Conclusion**

Since 1969, the initiative of population education has been taken in India. Since then, emphasis has been placed on the Family Planning Program by controlling the population growth and its control. However, although population education is closely related to family planning, education has nothing to do with it. The program actually straddled the line between raising public awareness and providing special financial incentives for birth control. As a result, the birth rate was controlled to some extent, but it did not have a significant effect on the large number of illiterate or poorly educated people. In 1969, the First National Conference on Population Education was organized in Mumbai. Based on this discussion, it was decided to start the National Population Education Program courtesy of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, UNFPA. Population education programs have been adopted in most states in modern India. The constitutional commitment to universal primary education was intended to increase the overall quality of life and remove obstacles to national development. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan initiative taken in 2001 will also achieve an objective of population education, because the spread of education is sure to reduce the birth rate. Child labour prevention, various health policies, women education and empowerment, backward class education and vocational reservation etc. are all measures to improve the standard of living. The target was accepted. Apart from that, poverty alleviation, rural income scheme, rural housing scheme etc. have been taken to improve the overall quality of life. In summary population education has been included in the curriculum and the subject has been included in the curriculum. Efforts are being made to educate the public through various schemes to improve overall education and health of the people population control is the foundation of all development. Out of school programs are being organized to prevent deadly diseases like AIDS which is indirectly a part of population education.

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