

# A Study of Geographical Importance on Indian Society & Demographic Dimensions

Supriya Dhull\*

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Punjab University, Chandigarh

**Abstract – This study cover aspects of the Demography is that part of human knowledge which is most closely concerned with the systematic and organized study of society. Demography is considered as a branch of geography. It is the scientific study of human population primarily with respect of their size, structure, distribution and other developments, which deals with population. The demographic factors not only influence the nature and quality of all factors of production, but also determine the kind of the economic activity. Such becomes necessary to know in qualitative and quantitative terms the evolution of demographic characteristics of Indian district. It is here that the society will come to know that what social needs are essential for the growing population. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and to realize this aim it requires seeing that programmes of child development are in full measures implemented. Demographic study assumes importance because child development programmes are also included in the study. It is population factor which makes it necessary for making improvised provision of electricity, road, water, housing, school, hospital needs of the society on the one hand and shopping centers, hygienic facilities etc. on the other. The state would be in a position to know with help of population data about the law and order problem which growing population will create and to solve these problems so that the people feel secure. Population problem is one the basic problems of the society. An administrator will have to give due consideration to the population factor in gearing the administrative to machinery to fulfill the needs of the people. Demography plays a major role in birth rate, death rate and migration. It is also important to formulate population policy for growth and migration, health care services etc.**

**Keywords: Demography, Human Knowledge, Society, Population, India.**

-----X-----

## INTRODUCTION

Human resource is one of the most vital resources of the country and the development of human resource is of paramount significance for the economic development and social welfare and also for improving quality of life. The study of human resource is a labour force, which helps in the process of production this enable the entire population of a region to live in conditions of comfortable and healthy living. Therefore it becomes necessary to know the evolution of demographic structure and population dynamics of the region in quantitative and qualitative terms. Geography is a special science. Population geography belongs to that borderland of geography, which opens on demography, sociology and economics. Thus, the focus of the subject is essentially inter-disciplinary. At the same time, it is a very young subject it is only 30 years old. It was in the early fifties of this century that the subject was formerly proposed as a separate discipline for teaching and research by G. T. Trewartha his presidential address in the association of American Geographers. On the occasion of its 49th Annual meeting held in Cleveland in 1953. Population

geography has recently emerged as a separate discipline of study and research. It is concerned mainly with the spatial analysis of population. It involves not only the magnitude of the human population but also its different characteristics of growth and mobility of population. It is related to other allied areas like demography, sociology, economics and related disciplines. Population geography is the spatial study of human population. It is mainly with one aspect of the study of population, its spatial distribution and arrangements. In fact, population provides the essential background for all geography, population serves as the point of reference from which all other geographic elements are observed, and from which they all singly and collectively derive significance and meaning. Trewartha pointed out that the essence of population geography lay in understanding the regional differences in the people covering the earth. The central theme of science of population geography is area differentiation. It is essential to \ understand the process of spatial organization. Population constitutes the most dynamic and the central element in such a process.

The processes of change that motivated Adam Smith are still at work and are no less complex or profound. Just like Smith's industrial revolution, the much-heralded Knowledge Economy has created significant wealth, but the distribution of benefits is highly skewed. Indeed, there are elements of a winner-take-all tournament that favors the lucky highly skilled, with increasing income disparities. Many individuals with high levels of human capital face economic insecurity and diminished career perspectives. These dilemmas are not new: from the time that Smith wrote in the mid-18th century, through Marx's reflections of the mid-19th century, income disparities were so great that the viability the whole industrial-market (or, for Marx, "capitalist") system was called into question. The system was prone to wild swings in performance, diminished growth prospects, and deteriorating social conditions. In the 20th century these conditions spawned political instability witnessed by revolutions, and the rise of nationalism, fascism and communism. Yet in the long sweep of history, capitalism has generated the biggest boom with increases in standards of living never before imaginable for the majority of the world's population.

Population geography is a systematic branch of pure geography. It lays emphasis upon regional differentiation of area in terms of their population. It does not study man as phenomena in or by itself, but as an area characterizing and area-differentiating element. Population geography as a formal and systematic sub field of the discipline of geography, places greater emphasis on man. Man is the main focus of study of population geography. In addition to the inclusion of man's culture, his economic and his reciprocal relationship. The objective of population geography is an understanding of the regional differences in the people covering the earth. Economists have asked why certain places grow, prosper and attain a higher standard of living at least since Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* in 1776. Smith was motivated to understand the reasons why England had become wealthier than continental Europe. While Smith is widely considered the father of modern economics his most important theorems originated in geography. When he said that "the division of labor is limited by the extent of the market," he was referring to the geographical extension of market areas in Scotland as transport costs declined, which in turn allowed larger-scale and more geographically concentrated production, organized in the form of the factory system. The transition from artisanal production to a modern industrial economy, with a 4800 per cent productivity increase, was intrinsically geographic. The transition that Smith analyzed was profound: artisans disappeared; production become more centralized in large factories and towns, creating a geography of winning and losing places; while the incomes of industrial capitalists increased a new industrial working class faced lower incomes than artisans and more difficult working conditions. Still, there was a

long-term take-off of per capita income that ended centuries of economic stagnation in the West. Critically, Smith, and others, showed that the division of labor inside the new factories was key to the astonishing productivity gains of the factory system, but that it also picked winner and losers in terms of both individuals and social relationships and geographic places. Smith was not only concerned with the positive aggregate economic effects of the new system, but also the more complex picture of human and geographical development.

### **GEOGRAPHY IS A FUNDAMENTAL INGREDIENT IN ECONOMICS:**

The relationship of geography and economic development presents itself somewhat differently in very poor places as compared to the world of middle- to upper-income regions and countries. In the former, development cannot get started without basic institutions such as property rights, a solid legal system, and infrastructure that make local and long-distance commerce possible. In the latter, i.e. the majority of the "world market" countries, these basic conditions are already in place, yet significant geographical disparities in income and human development persist. We will address the rest of this study to the middle- and upper-income countries and regions of the world, as a very different discussion of geography and economics would be required to address policy in the poorest places. There was a time not too long ago when economists were preoccupied with models that rendered spatial disparities as uninteresting temporary disequilibrium while geographers focused on complex phenomena described in detailed case studies. There were also notable differences in normative perspective. Economists were not fundamentally worried about geographical disparities in development, while geographers tended to be more radical, with a focus on social concerns and left-behind places. Data was a limitation as were empirical methods and visualizations. Yet as frequently happened in scientific disciplines, fields converge and recombine to form new fields of inquiry. This happened over the past thirty years in economics and geography.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN OF INDIA:**

India is a multi-cultural, pluralistic society that offers immense variations and diversities not only geographically but demographically too. Since independence, the country has been facing what appears now, as almost irremediable population problem. It becomes extremely important to highlight different patterns pertaining to its socio-economic setup as well as its demographic characteristics. Each state in this country has its own regional pattern, attitude, living habits and approach of the people pertaining to the respective regions. There are problems related to the systematically developing urbanization procedure and also the problems, in connection with the rural development

of the country. Such diversities are found to be reflected among different demographic factors also. Rapidly industrializing countries face a dual challenge. If their development is to be sustainable, they need to manage the process of industrialization better than other industrial countries have. At the same time, they need to combat poverty and protect the natural resources that are still the primary base of their economies and a significant source of employment. These are immense challenges for a developing nation. Such countries have an unparalleled opportunity to find different paths to development and in doing so to provide models that other countries could follow. With the right policies, they can achieve rapid economic development and yet avoid creating environmental problems on the scale of those created by the developed countries. The world today faces numerous critical environmental threats. At the same time, it also faces enormous human problems in the form of widespread, persistent poverty and human misery and a pattern of economic growth that is worsening rather than resolving such disparities. For any country there are two very crucial issues pertaining to its literacy situation and employment generation in different sectors. It is imperative for the development aspects of any country from the point of view of its infrastructure facilities. Economic development is a function of infrastructure facilities. Economic planning consists of the extension of the functions of public authorities to the organization and utilization of economic resources. Planning implies growth and development for any country which leads to the centralization of the national economy.

The planning for development is indispensable for removing the poverty of a nation. For raising national and per capita income, for reducing inequalities in income and wealth, for increasing employment opportunities for comprehensive development and for sustaining and maintaining their newly won national independence, planning is the only path open to underdeveloped countries. This also refers to the developing countries which have a very wide horizon for further prospects of development. Keeping the above factors in mind it is intended to execute this study for highlighting certain issues pertaining to the demographic and socio economic pattern of India. In this study some key demographic factors are represented state-wise as well as rural and urban region-wise for Indian data. Two important factors - literacy and the employment situation in the country are highlighted. The sectoral decomposition of GDP at factor cost pertaining to different sectors of economy is highlighted along with national income measurements by means of GNP and NNP pertaining to Indian data.

## **DEMOGRAPHY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:**

Human development can best be studied with models that have human beings rather than monetary or other units at the core of their analysis. Demography, which can also be defined as the mathematics of people, specifies all of its models strictly in terms of human beings according to different relevant characteristics. Hence, it offers a most appropriate approach to the study of human development across the world. Traditionally, demographic analysis has mostly focused on the changing composition of populations by age and gender. But human beings have many observable and measurable characteristics that distinguish one individual from another and that can be considered highly relevant for human development; these characteristics can also be assessed in aggregate and used to distinguish one sub-group of a population from another. Here we will focus on the level of highest educational attainment and to a lesser extent also health status in addition to age and gender. In virtually all societies, better educated men and women have lower mortality rates, and their children have better chances of survival. Almost universally, women with higher levels of education have fewer children, presumably because they want fewer and find better access to birth control. There are, of course, many factors influencing the level of fertility that range from the status of women within the family, to female labour force participation, to general socio-economic development. However, extensive research has shown that among this myriad of factors, the level of female education and the availability of reproductive health services are the two most important ones that are open to policy interventions. The effect of education on fertility is particularly strong in countries that still have relatively high overall fertility levels and hence are in the early phases of their demographic transitions. There are many reasons to assume that these pervasive differentials are directly caused by education, which enhances the level of information, changes the motivations for behaviour, and empowers people to better pursue their own preferences, although strict causality can only be proven for specific cases in which natural experiments occurred. For the following projections by level of education, it is sufficient to assume that systematic associations will continue to persist over the coming decades, as they have for more than a century for all countries for which data exist. Because of these fertility and mortality differentials by education, future changes in the educational composition of the population will greatly influence the future outlook for overall population trends around the world. In addition, education is not only an important source of population heterogeneity that influences population dynamics, but it is also an important influence on people's capabilities and empowerment, as will be discussed below. Hence

there are many reasons for making investments in education in general and in female education in particular in programmes directed at better global health, population stabilization, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

### **GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND GEOGRAPHY:**

Economic theory has long recognized that the relationship between the quantity of growth and the quality of economic development is a complex one. In policy circles, however, growth and development are frequently conflated. Economic growth is a primary focus of macroeconomists, who rely on quantifiable metrics such as gross national product or aggregate income. Economic development was for a long time relegated to practitioner domains, often related to infrastructure, public health or education in poorer countries. For much of the 20th century, experts relied on specific outcome measures that, while policy relevant, could not be convincingly linked to a broader picture of growth or to a longer-term pathway of qualitative improvement in development. In some countries, increases in education did not lead to long-term growth, for example; while in others, it seemed like growth came first and education was an outcome. This leads back to the core debates about directions of causality and need for systemic understanding of these relationships. Taking one extreme, some argue that the same ingredients that generate aggregate growth can be counted on to deliver qualitative improvements in human welfare. That there is a strong correlation between per capita income and the Human Development Index (HDI), in the range of 0.95 suggests that the development and growth are interrelated. Others argue that the real sequence – in time and space – of improving income must start with directly improving human welfare, will deliver the growth that will, in turn, deliver further improvements in per capita income, and subsequently better human welfare. Complicating matters, professional practice in poor countries emphasizes direct improvements in welfare as the kick-starter to growth, while in developed countries policy tends to emphasize kick-starting growth, based on the implicit assumption that growth will increase human welfare. In any event, we no longer have the hubris that once existed in the economic development field, which assumed that the path of economic development was linear with an always positive and increasing improvement in both development and growth. With larger samples of growth and development experiences to study, the lesson is that growth does not occur automatically and continuously improve human welfare. Moreover, even when processes of economic growth and development appear relatively robust, there is an uneven geographical distribution of the benefits. All places do not rise, or fall, at the same time; indeed, there are frequently contrasting processes at the same time across different neighborhoods, cities, regions, and countries.

### **CONCEPTUALISATION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION:**

The issue of social exclusion has become the centrality of current development paradigm in India. Social exclusion is one of the negative effects of economic restructure and transformation. It is a phenomenon wherein individuals, social groups, or geographical areas tend to experience political, economic and/or social disadvantages, lack of confidence, a sense of powerlessness or a degree of social alienation. In other words, it is used to describe a situation in which an individual, group or class is unable to participate in the basic political, economic and social functions of society. Social exclusion is, therefore, not merely a problem of economic disadvantages such as low income or unemployment, but it is also social disintegration, alienation/isolation from society, powerlessness and inability to take part in, and contribute to, mainstream development. Social exclusion is a multi-dimensional concept. It refers to exclusion (deprivation) in economic, social and political spheres. It goes beyond the analysis of resource allocation mechanisms, and includes power relations, agency, culture and social identity. Social exclusion can refer to a state or situation, but it often refers to a process, to the mechanism by which people are excluded.

Combating social exclusion of certain groups or classes from mainstream development has become an essential feature of the long-term development paradigm in most developed and developing economies of the 21st century. The term “social exclusion” was originally coined by Rene Lenoir in 1974, the French Social Action Secretary of State in the Chirac government (published a document entitled *Les Exclus: Un Francais sur Dix*) referring to various social categories of people, such as the mentally and physically handicapped, single parents, substance users and other groups unprotected by social insurance. The waves of globalisation and privatisation, deregulation, reduction of public services, and deregulation of the labour market were accompanied by rising unemployment in Europe, and precariousness affecting those who formerly enjoyed secure jobs and associated social networks. It was broadly defined as a progressive rupture of social bonds and collapse of relationship between individuals and society. Social exclusion was surfaced as a response to the problem of sustaining social integration and solidarity in France. It has been argued that chronic poverty and youth unemployment among educated persons resulted in social exclusion. Long-term unemployment can lead to poverty, poverty in turn leads to social exclusion, and social exclusion in turn can make it much harder for people to find work-exclusion from labour market. People may be unemployed without being poor, they may be poor without being socially excluded and can be socially excluded without being unemployed.

In the process of economic growth driven by market forces, marginalization of certain groups or classes tends to occur in most societies including developed countries and it is more prominent in transient economies like India.

## CONCLUSION:

Demography is considered as a branch of geography. It is the scientific study of human population primarily with respect of their size, structure, distribution and other developments, which deals with population. The study of human resource is a labour force, which helps in the process of production this enable the entire population of a region to live in conditions of comfortable and healthy living. Therefore it becomes necessary to know the evolution of demographic structure and population dynamics of the region in quantitative and qualitative terms. Demography is that part of human knowledge which is most closely concerned with the systematic and organized study of society. It is here that the society will come to know that what social needs are essential for the growing population. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and to realize this aim it requires to see that programmes of child development are in full measures implemented. Demographic study assumes importance because child development programmes are also included in the study. It is population factor which makes it necessary for making improvised provision of electricity, road, water, housing, school, hospital needs of the society on the one hand and shopping centers, hygienic facilities etc. on the other. The state would be in a position to know with help of population data about the law and order problem which growing population will create and to solve these problems so that the people feel secure. The structure of demography also called composition, which determines the quality of human resources. It refers to the characteristics of the population, which consists population attributes such as size of population, literacy, occupational structure, age structure, languages, male-female, rural-urban, fertility, mortality, mobility and others. Human resource is one of the most vital resources of the country and the development of human resource is of paramount significance for the economic development and social welfare and also for improving quality of life.

## REFERENCES

1. Bartik, T. J. (2012). "The future of state and local economic development policy: what research is needed." *Growth and Change*, 43(4), pp. 545-562.
2. Casper, S. (2009). "The marketplace for ideas: Can Los Angeles build a successful biotechnology cluster." A Report to the John Randolph Haynes Foundation, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. pp. 1-49
3. Cheshire, P; Overman, H.O.; Nathan, M. (2013). *Urban Economics and Urban Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
4. Crescenzi, R., Rodríguez-Pose, A., and Storper, M. (2012). "The territorial dynamics of innovation in China and India." *Journal of Economic Geography*, 12(5), pp. 1055-1085.
5. Easterly, W. (2012). *White Man's Burden: why the West's efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good*. New York: Oxford University Press.
6. Einiö, E., and Overman, H. (2012). *The Effects of Spatially Targeted Enterprise Initiatives: Evidence from UK LEGI*.
7. Fawcett, E. (2014). *Liberalism: The life of an idea*. Princeton University Press.
8. Feldman, M. and Romanelli, E., (2006). "Anatomy of cluster development: Emergence and convergence in the US human biotherapeutics, 1976–2003." Braunerhjelm and Feldman, eds., *Cluster Genesis: Technology-Based Industrial Development*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
9. Feldman, M., Hadjimichael, T., Kemeny, T., & Lanahan, L. (2014). "The logic of economic development: a definition and model for investment." *Environment and Planning C Government and Policy*.
10. Feldman, M., and Lowe, N. (2015). "Triangulating regional economies: Realizing the promise of digital data." *Research Policy*. 44(9), pp. 1785-1793.
11. Hsieh, CT and Moretti, E. (2015). "Why do cities matter? Local growth and aggregate growth." Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 21154 ([www.nber.org/papers/w21154](http://www.nber.org/papers/w21154)).
12. Hwang, V. W., and Horowitz, G. (2012). *The Rainforest: The secret to building the next Silicon Valley* (p. 304). Los Altos: Regenwald.
13. Iammarino, S., and McCann, P. (2013). *Multinationals and economic geography: location, technology and innovation*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
14. Kemeny, T., and Storper, M. (2015). "Is specialization good for regional economic

- development?." *Regional Studies*, 49(6), pp. 1003-1018.
15. Kemeny, T. (2014). "Immigrant diversity and economic performance in cities." *International Regional Science Review*. DOI: 10.1177/0160017614541695
  16. Kemeny, T. and Storper, M. (2012). "The sources of urban development: wages, housing and amenity gaps across American cities." *Journal of Regional Science* 52,1: pp. 85-108.
  17. Kline, P., and Moretti, E. (2013). *People, places and public policy: Some simple welfare economics of local economic development programs* (No. w19659). National Bureau of Economic Research.
  18. Powell, W. W., & Sandholtz, K. W. (2012). "Amphibious entrepreneurs and the emergence of organizational forms." *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*, 6(2), pp. 94-115.
  19. Storper, M., Kemeny, T., Makarem, N., & Osman, T. (2015). *The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles*. Stanford University Press.
  20. Whitford, J., & Schrank, A. (2011). "The paradox of the weak state revisited: industrial policy, network governance, and political decentralization." Block and Keller, eds., *State of innovation: The US government's role in technology development*, Paradigm Publisher, Boulder, pp. 261-281

---

### Corresponding Author

#### Supriya Dhull\*

Research Scholar, Department of Geography,  
Punjab University, Chandigarh

[supriyadhull514@gmail.com](mailto:supriyadhull514@gmail.com)