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Effect of Population Growth on Economic Development in Haryana

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to examine how rapid population growth influences economic development in Haryana. A sharp rise in population refers to a considerable increase in the number of people within a short time frame, often resulting from factors like high birth rates, reduced mortality, and migration. While population growth itself isn't inherently harmful, it becomes problematic when left uncontrolled. Such unregulated growth puts stress on infrastructure and services, making it difficult for the economy to meet the basic needs of its citizens. This study is particularly focused on the economic challenges that arise from population growth in Haryana.

Key words: sustainable limits, population growth, fixed-effects, developing countries, descriptive, economic growth.

Introduction

Population growth is typically linked with economic development, as a larger population is often viewed as a valuable resource. More people can contribute to greater productivity, consumption, and expansion. However, when population growth surpasses sustainable limits, it turns into a burden. A balanced population can act as an asset, while excessive growth leads to challenges. In the case of Haryana, population levels have exceeded the optimal range, turning what could be a strength into a liability. This overpopulation has emerged as a significant barrier to economic planning and progress, becoming an obstacle in the path of successful development.

Data sources

The period of the study is 1991 to 2011 and based on secondary data. Main source of data for this study are census of India, selected socio-economic statistics India, 2011, Government of India, ministry of statistics, Office of the register General, India, Statistical Abstract of Haryana. To analyse the data statistical techniques like percentage growth rate, annual growth rate have been applied.

Review of Literature

The connection between population growth and economic development is intricate and widely discussed in economic research. While certain studies point to a positive link, especially when a growing labour force boosts productivity, others stress the negative consequences such as greater poverty and increased pressure on natural resources.

Bloom (2010) conducted an empirical study on the relationship between an aging population and economic growth in Asia from 1960 to 2005. Using descriptive data and a fixed-effects panel



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model, the research revealed several findings: a negative relationship between aging and economic growth, a positive association between working-age population growth and economic performance, and no clear link between economic growth and demographic shifts in Tanzania, which was outside the main focus of the study.

Jhingan (2005) explained that the effect of population growth on economic performance varies between economies. In developed nations, rising population levels often support economic growth and contribute positively to Gross National Product (GNP). However, in developing countries, the trend tends to reverse, where population growth can hinder economic advancement.

Aidi (2016) applied a Granger causality test using Nigerian data from 1970 to 2013 to examine the relationship between population growth and economic progress. His findings showed that population changes neither caused economic growth nor were caused by it, suggesting no significant linkage during that time. The focus of this research was strictly on Nigeria and not applicable to Tanzania.

Gill (1992) studied the link between population growth and economic progress in India. He found that while a growing population can contribute positively to development to some extent, it can also strain available resources. His conclusion emphasized that rapid population growth tends to negatively affect economic development, especially when it outpaces the economy's ability to support it.

Table- 1 Population and Annual growth rate (%),1991,2001,2011 in India

Population And Annual Growth Rate(%),1991,2001,2011 and 2022 in India					
State	POPULATION			Growth Rate(%)Anum	
	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
Uttar pradesh	131998804	166197921	199812341	2.3	1.8
Bihar	82878796	65118380	104099452	-2.4	4.7
Maharastra	78937187	96878627	112374333	2	1.5
West bengal	68077965	80176197	91276115	1.6	1.3
Andhra Pradesh	66508008	75727541	84580777	1.3	1.1
Madhya Pradesh	48566242	60348023	72626809	2.2	1.9
Rajasthan	44005990	56507188	6854837	2.5	1.9
Tamil nadu	55858946	62405679	72147030	1.1	1.5
Gujrat	41309582	50671017	60439692	2	1.8



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Karnataka	44977201	52850562	61095297	1.6	1.4
Odisha	31659736	36804660	41974218	1.5	1.3
Jharkhand	21843911	26945829	32988134	2.1	2
Assam	22414322	26655528	31205576	1.7	1.6
Kerala	29098518	31841374	33406061	0.9	0.5
Chhattisgarh	17614928	20833803	25545198	1.7	2
Punjab	20281969	24358999	27743338	1.8	1.3
Haryana	16463648	21144564	25351462	2.5	1.8
NCT of Delhi	9420644	13850507	16787941	3.9	1.9
Jammu&	7803900	101437000	12541302	2.6	2.1
Kashmir					
Uttarakhand	7113483	8489349	10086292	1.8	1.7
Himachal	5170877	6077900	6864602	1.6	1.2
Pradesh					
Tripura	2757205	3199203	3673917	1.5	1.4
Meghalaya	1774778	2318822	2966889	2.7	2.5
Manipur	1837149	2166788	2570390	1.7	1.7
Nagaland	1209546	1990036	1978502	5	-0.1
Arunachal	864558	1097968	1383727	2.4	2.3
Pradesh					
Puducherry	807785	974345	1247953	1.9	2.5
Goa	1169793	1347668	1458545	1.4	0.8
Mizoram	689756	888573	1097206	2.5	2.1
Chandigarh	642015	900635	1055450	3.4	1.6
Sikkim	406457	540851	610577	2.9	1.2
Dadar&Nagar	138477	220490	343709	4.7	4.4
Haveli					
Daman&Diu	101586	158204	413437	4.4	4.3
A&N islands	280661	356152	380581	2.4	0.7
Lakshadweep	51707	60650	64473	1.6	0.6
India	864736130	1010247733	1210569573	1.6	1.8
Source: Census of India various census					



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Table-2 Population Growth in Haryana(1901-2011)

Year	Population	Growth rate(%)
2011	2,53,51,462	19.9
2001	2,11,44,564	28.43
1991	1,64,63,648	27.41
1981	1,29,22,119	28.75
1971	1,00,36,431	32.22
1961	75,90,524	33.79
1951	56,73,597	7.6
1941	52,72,829	15.63
1931	45,59,917	7.14
1921	42,55,892	1.95
1911	41,74,677	-9.7
1901	46,23,064	
source: census of India		

Table-3 District wise population Growth in Haryana

District	Total population			Growth rate	
	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
HARYANA	16463648	21144564	25351462	2.502	1.815
Gurgaon	1146090	1660289	1514432	3.706	5.537
Mewat(2005)			1089263	NA	3.215
Faridabad	1477240	2194586	1809733	3.958	2.817
Palwal(2008)			1042708	NA	2.292
Panipat	698000	967449	1205437	3.264	2.199
Panchkula	310000	468411	561293	4.128	1.809
Karnal	1035000	1274183	1505324	2.076	1.667
Rewari	611000	765351	900332	2.252	1.624
Kurukshetra	669000	825454	964655	2.101	1.558
Fatehabad	646000	806158	942011	2.215	1.557
Yamunanagar	806000	1041630	1214205	2.565	1.533
Sirsa	903536	1116649	1295189	2.118	1.483
Bhiwani	1163000	1425022	1634445	2.032	1.371
Kaithal	782000	946131	1074304	1.905	1.27
Narnaul(Mahendragarh)	681869	812521	922088	1.753	1.265



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Hisar	1209000	1537117	1743931	2.401	1.262
Sonipat	1045000	1279175	1450001	2.022	1.253
Rohtak	777000	940128	1061204	1.906	1.211
Jind	980000	1189827	1334152	1.94	1.145
Ambala	806000	10114411	1128350	2.3	1.064
Jhajjar	715000	880072	958405	2.077	0.853

Source: Census of India

According to Table-1, The census report published by the Government of India indicates that the total population of Haryana in 2011 was 2,53,51,462 with 1,34,94,734 males and 1,18,56,728 females. Haryana rank 17th among Indian states in terms of population size, accounting for about 2.09 percent of the national population.

Table-2 Highlight that Haryana's population growth rate was 28.43 percent between 1991 and 2001, which later declined to 19.90 percent in the period 2001 to 2011.

Table-3 Provides district wise data from the 2011 census. The most populated districts in Haryana are Faridabad(18,09,733), Hisar (17,43,931), Bhiwani (16,34,445), Gurugram (15,14,432) and least populated districts includes Rewari (9,00,332), Panchkula (5,61,293), Mahendragarh (9,29,088) , Fatehabad (9,42,011) and Jhajjar (9,58,405).

Effect of Population Growth on Economic Development

Effect of population growth rate on economic development is one of the most debatable topics on earth. The above study shows that rise in population has negative effect on both economic development and economic growth of Haryana

Pressure on Natural Resources Pressure

Haryana has long been an agriculture-centric state. Agriculture here heavily relies on irrigation. However, the supply of arable land and water resources is limited. With population growth, these resources are under increasing strain, leading to stagnation in agricultural output. The shrinking size of cultivable land and growing pressure on water and forest resources further complicate the situation. Projections indicate that if unchecked, Haryana may face a shortage of cultivable land and related resources in the near future.

Rising unemployment

A large population leads to an oversupply of labour. Due to limited capital resources, it's difficult to provide employment opportunities for all. This results in disguised unemployment in rural zones and visible unemployment in urban areas, which is now a frequent issue across Haryana.

Low Savings and Investment

A growing population drives higher government spending, leaving less room for savings and capital investments. Reduced savings and investments can lead to economic underdevelopment and financial strain.



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Food Insecurity

High population growth can outpace food production, causing food shortages and malnutrition. Haryana faces challenges related to hunger and food insecurity, as agricultural expansion struggles to keep up with the rising demand.

Capital Formation and Technological Backwardness

Population growth puts significant pressure on capital formation. As the population increases, per capita income tends to decline. Families must support more children with the same or even fewer resources, which leads to increased consumption expenditure. This situation further reduces an already low rate of saving, ultimately lowering the level of investment. When savings and investment shrink, people are forced to rely on outdated and less efficient technologies, which delays economic progress and hinders capital development.

Employment Challenges

Employment is another area deeply affected by rapid population growth. As the number of people increases, so does the proportion of workers within the total population. However, in the absence of adequate complementary resources like capital, land, and tools, it becomes impossible to provide sufficient employment opportunities. Consequently, unemployment and underemployment rise. A fast-growing population not only affects income and savings but also reduces investment levels. This weakens capital formation and shrinks job opportunities. As a result, unemployment increases across both rural and urban areas. The ever-expanding labour force further worsens the employment crisis, especially in Haryana, where rising population levels are not matched by adequate job creation.

Decline in Standard of Living

The standard of living is closely linked to per capita income, and population growth tends to lower it. The growing number of people leads to a sharp increase in the demand for essentials such as food, clothing, housing, and other basic necessities. However, due to a lack of supporting resources like capital, land, and skilled labour, supply cannot keep up with demand. This leads to inflation, pushing the cost of living higher for the masses. Consequently, the standard of living deteriorates. Poverty often leads families to have more children, thereby worsening the poverty cycle. Thus, an important outcome of population growth is a general decline in the standard of living.

Poverty and Inequality

Population growth also contributes significantly to poverty and inequality. Both directly and indirectly, it is a major factor behind the continuous poverty cycle, especially in economically weaker regions like parts of Haryana. A large proportion of the population is forced to spend most of their income on raising children, leaving little room for savings and investment. This reduces per capita income, savings, and capital formation. Combined with stagnant industrial and agricultural output, limited access to modern technologies, and rising prices of essential goods, the



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outcome is widespread poverty. While the poor struggle to survive, the rich continue to accumulate more wealth, widening the income gap and deepening social and economic inequality.

Pressure on Social Services

A larger population can strain public services like healthcare and education, potentially lowering their quality. Ensuring the effective delivery of these services becomes challenging with a rapidly growing population.

Impact on per capita income

While GDP might increase, per capita income (income per person) might not grow as fast or could even decline if population growth outpaces economic growth.

Dependency Ratio

A high dependency ratio, with a large portion of the population being either very young or elderly, can strain the working-age population. This can limit the capacity to invest in economic activities and development. Raising income levels is one of the most effective ways to reduce population growth, as financial stability often leads to smaller family sizes.

Suggestions to control over Population

- Family planning must be a deliberate choice, ensuring that childbirth is planned and not accidental.
- There is a need to create equal economic opportunities so that population pressure can be managed more effectively.
- Empowering and educating women is essential, as it leads to informed reproductive choices and delayed marriages.
- Society should actively promote the concept of small families as a norm for sustainable living.
- The government should implement strict policies and legal measures against those who consistently ignore family planning norms.
- Improving healthcare infrastructure will help lower infant and child mortality rates, thereby reducing the need for larger families.
- In cases where couples are unable to conceive despite medical help, they should be encouraged to adopt orphaned children, which benefits both the child and the couple while contributing to population control.

Conclusion

The analysis clearly shows that while population growth plays an important role in economic development, it can become a burden if left unchecked. In Haryana, the population has exceeded its optimal level, turning from a potential asset into a liability. This situation has created significant challenges for economic planning and development. Overpopulation in the state has negatively



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affected key areas such as savings, investment, per capita income, standard of living, capital formation, food security, and environmental sustainability.

However, it is important to note that the relationship between population growth and economic development can be positive, but only when the increase in population is matched with sufficient resources. Economic progress is more likely when available resources are well-managed and supported by an educated and skilled workforce, as seen in a state like Haryana.

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